LAND of the LOST

NO. 7

Land of the Lost COMICS

AN ENTERTAINING EC COMIC

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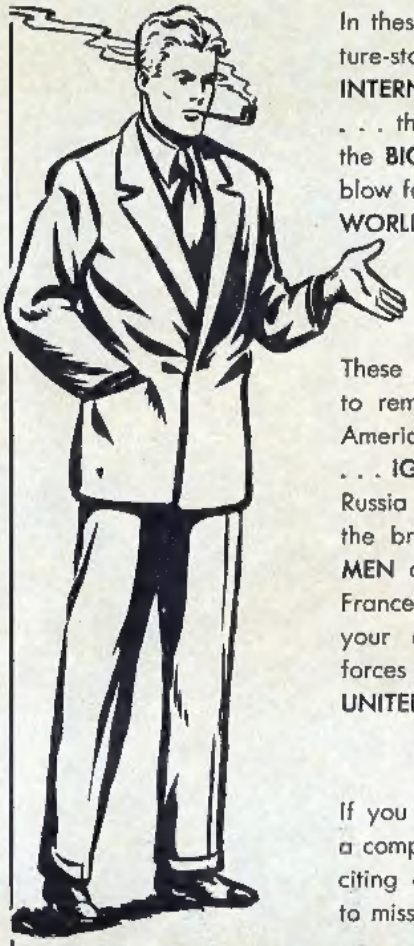

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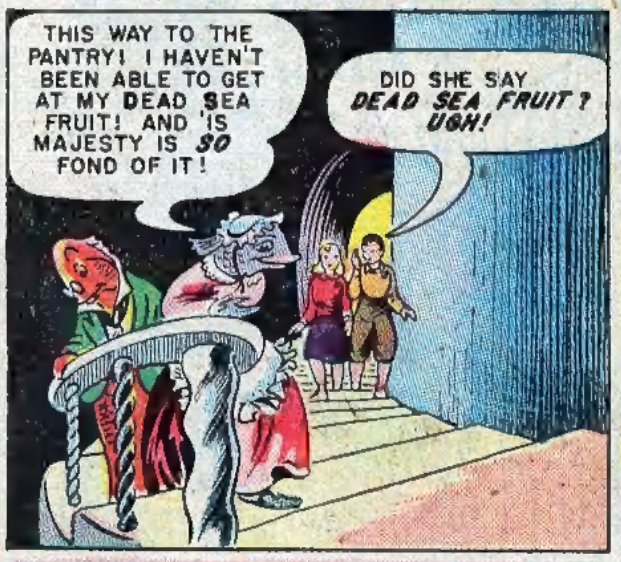
Land of the Lost
OLD KEYS, NEW KEYS, THIN KEYS, FAT KEYS--- THERE'S EVERY KIND OF KEY IN THE LOCK-UP OF LOST KEYS— EVEN A SKELETON KEY!
AND BILLY AND ISABEL ALMOST WISH THEY HAD NEVER TAKEN THEIR MAGIC SEAWEED (WHICH HELPS THEM BREATHE UNDER WATER) AND FOLLOWED RED LANTERN DOWN TO THAT EERIE PLACE IN THE LAND OF THE LOST...
The LOCK-UP OF LOST KEYS!
OLIVE BAILEY

GRACIOUS, RED LANTERN! YOU'RE AWFULLY DRESSED UP! I HAVEN'T NOTICED YOU WEARING THAT DIAMOND KEY SINCE THE COD-FISH BALL!
I'M WEARING IT FOR A VERY PRACTICAL REASON TODAY!

THIS MAGIC KEY WILL OPEN ANY LOCK IT TOUCHES! AND SINCE THE KEY TO THE PALACE STORAGE PANTRY HAS DISAPPEARED, I TOLD THE HOUSEKEEPER I'D FLIP OVER AND OPEN IT!
1

THE SIDE ENTRANCE TO KING FIND-ALL'S PALACE...
DID YOU SAY *STORAGE PANTRY?* GEE, MAYBE SHE'LL GIVE US SOMETHING TO EAT!
WHY NOT?
ANYBODY HOME?

OH, RED LANTERN, SIR—IS THAT YOU? AND THE TWO YOUNG EARTH-PEOPLE! HOW ARE YOU, MY DEARS?
VERY WELL, THANK YOU, MRS. PUDDINGWIFE!

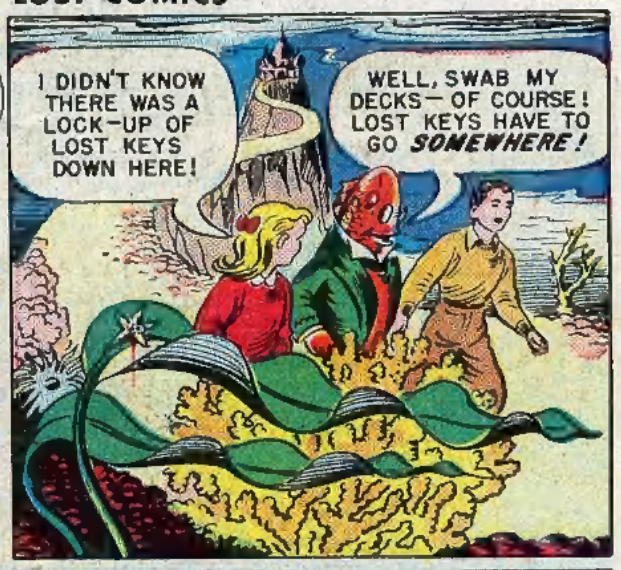

THIS WAY TO THE PANTRY! I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET AT MY DEAD SEA FRUIT! AND 'IS MAJESTY IS *SO* FOND OF IT!
DID SHE SAY *DEAD SEA FRUIT? UGH!*

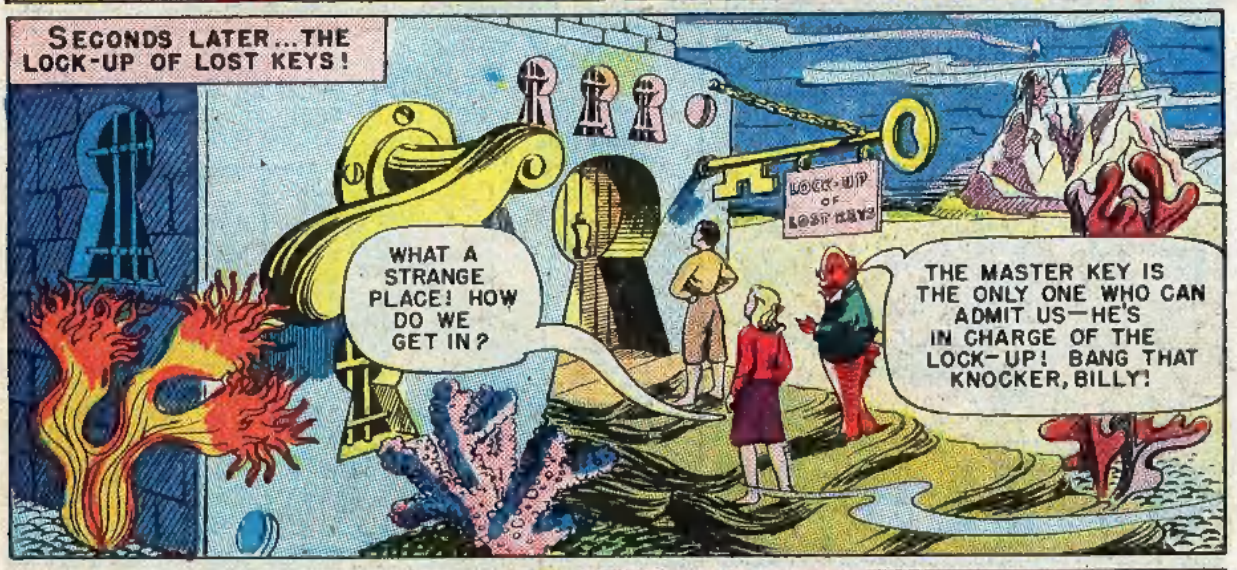
YOUR MAGIC KEY LOOKS ALMOST TOO PRETTY TO BE USEFUL, SIR! DEAR ME, I 'OPE IT'LL WORK!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TOUCH THE LOCK WITH IT— LIKE THIS—
ROYAL PANTRY

THE MAGIC KEY NO SOONER TOUCHES THE LOCK THAN...
THERE YOU ARE— *GATES AJAR!*
WELL, I NEVER...

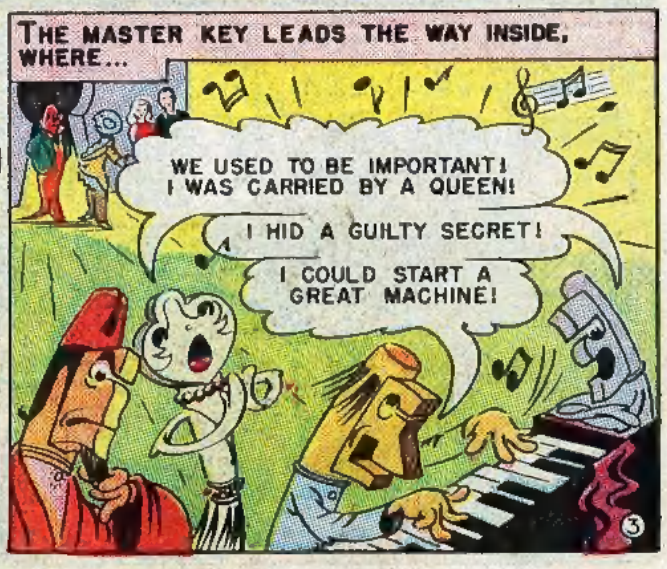
WHERE'S THE REGULAR KEY, MA'AM?
I DON'T KNOW! IT ALWAYS 'UNG ON A NAIL IN THE KITCHEN, BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN IT DISAPPEARED!
SEARUB
BRINE JELLY
DEAD SEA FRUIT
SALT SEA CONSERVE
KELP OIL
SONNUT BUTTER
2

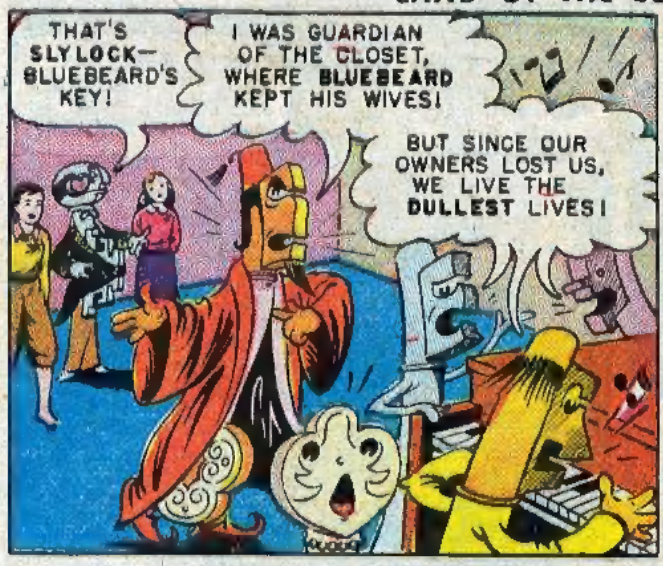
'IS 'IGHNESS, KING FIND-ALL, THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND IT IN THE LOCK-UP OF LOST KEYS!
WE'LL GO THERE AT ONCE! COME, POLLYWOGS! GOODBYE, MRS. PUDDINGWIFE!

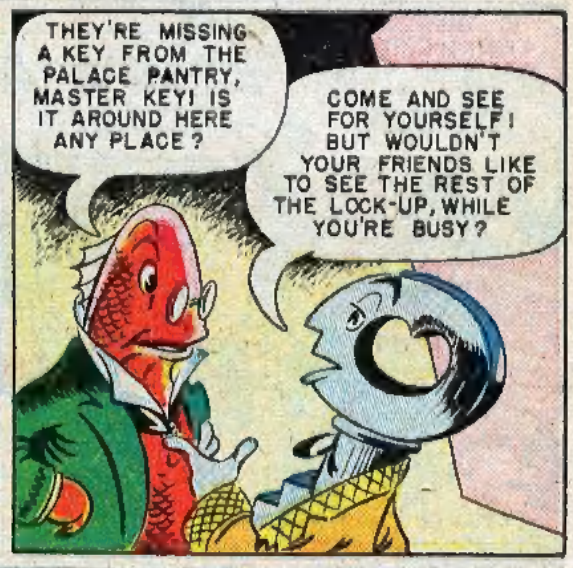

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A LOCK-UP OF LOST KEYS DOWN HERE!
WELL, SWAB MY DECKS—OF COURSE! LOST KEYS HAVE TO GO *SOMEWHERE!*


SECONDS LATER...THE LOCK-UP OF LOST KEYS!
LOCK-UP OF LOST KEYS
WHAT A STRANGE PLACE! HOW DO WE GET IN?
THE MASTER KEY IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN ADMIT US—HE'S IN CHARGE OF THE LOCK-UP! BANG THAT KNOCKER, BILLY!

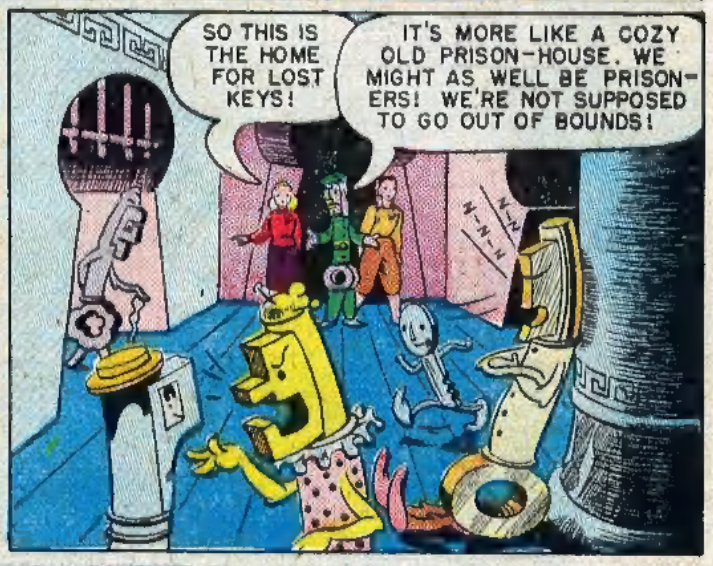
KNOCK! KNOCK!
WELL, FILE ME DOWN! IT'S RED LANTERN! THOSE EARTH PEOPLE WITH YOU GAVE ME QUITE A TURN!
DON'T GET RATTLED, MASTER KEY! THESE ARE GUESTS OF MINE, ISABEL AND BILLY!

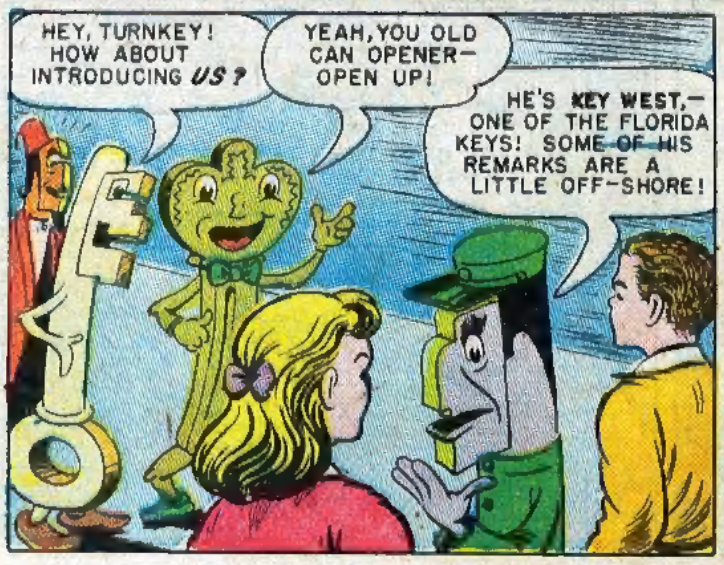

THE MASTER KEY LEADS THE WAY INSIDE, WHERE...
WE USED TO BE IMPORTANT! I WAS CARRIED BY A QUEEN!
I HID A GUILTY SECRET!
I COULD START A GREAT MACHINE!
3


THAT'S SLYLOCK— BLUEBEARD'S KEY!
I WAS GUARDIAN OF THE CLOSET, WHERE BLUEBEARD KEPT HIS WIVES!
BUT SINCE OUR OWNERS LOST US, WE LIVE THE DULLEST LIVES!


THEY'RE MISSING A KEY FROM THE PALACE PANTRY, MASTER KEY! IS IT AROUND HERE ANY PLACE?
COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF! BUT WOULDN'T YOUR FRIENDS LIKE TO SEE THE REST OF THE LOCK-UP, WHILE YOU'RE BUSY?

TURNKEY! WILL YOU PLEASE SHOW THESE EARTH PEOPLE THROUGH THE LOCK-UP?
YES, SIR!
SAY, THAT'D BE SWELL!


SO THIS IS THE HOME FOR LOST KEYS!
IT'S MORE LIKE A COZY OLD PRISON-HOUSE. WE MIGHT AS WELL BE PRISONERS! WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO GO OUT OF BOUNDS!


HEY, TURNKEY! HOW ABOUT INTRODUCING US?
YEAH, YOU OLD CAN OPENER— OPEN UP!
HE'S KEY WEST,— ONE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS! SOME OF HIS REMARKS ARE A LITTLE OFF-SHORE!

IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE SEEN ANYONE LIKE YOU! IT'S LONESOME HERE - NO FEASTS, NO LOVELY DAMSELS, NO MIDNIGHT MURDERS!
OOOH!

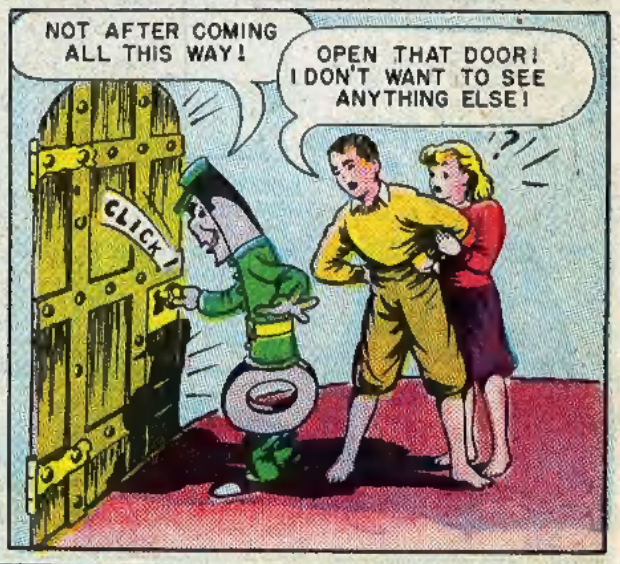
YOU MEAN—YOU LIKE MURDERS?
WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE LED BLUE-BEARD'S WIVES INTO THE FORBIDDEN ROOM?
OH, WHAT A DREADFUL CREATURE!
AH, BUT I'VE MADE OTHER FRIENDS—
YES, I THINK YOU'D BETTER INFORM HIS NIBS THAT WE'RE HAVING VISITORS, SLYLOCK!
THE KEYBOARD ROOM...
I TELL YOU IT WAS IN THE KEY OF G!
GO JUMP OFF A CLEF—IT WAS IN D!
DON'T PAY THEM NO MIND, FOLKS! IT'S JEST THEM SHARPS AND FLATS FROM THE LOST CHORD, ARGUFYING AGAIN!
I'LL LEAVE YOU NOW, FOLKS! THAT TURNKEY TURNS ME THE WRONG WAY! MASTER KEY THINKS HE'S FINE, BUT I DON'T TRUST HIM! PLAYS BOTH SIDES OF THE DOOR AGAINST THE MIDDLE! BE KEY-FULL!
BETTER HURRY, SIR—WE'VE A LOT TO SEE YET! AND I'M SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST!
HEY, TURNKEY—WHAT ARE YOU DOING THAT FOR?
WE ALWAYS KEEP THAT DOOR LOCKED, SIR! BUT COME ALONG! WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE BEST PART OF THE LOCK-UP--- THE OLD KEEP!
CLICK

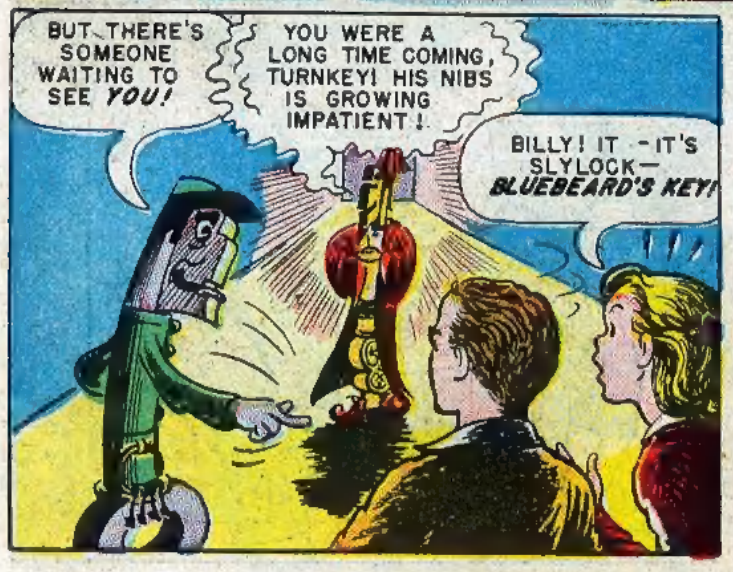
WHAT'S AN OLD KEEP, TURNKEY?
SORT OF AN OLD-FASHIONED DUNGEON! BUT FOLLOW ME...

WHY DO YOU LOCK EACH DOOR AS WE GO ALONG, TURNKEY?
CLICK

JUST A FORMALITY! LOCK-HOUSE RULES, YOU KNOW! NOW WE'LL GO DOWN THESE STEPS...
IT'S KIND OF HARD TO SEE! I—I DON'T THINK I CARE TO VISIT THE KEEP AFTER ALL, MR. TURNKEY...

OH, COME, COME! IT'S NOT MUCH FURTHER...
LISTEN! I WANT TO KNOW THE IDEA OF LOCKING ALL THOSE DOORS BEHIND US? I DON'T LIKE IT! COME ON, LET'S GO BACK...
CREEK

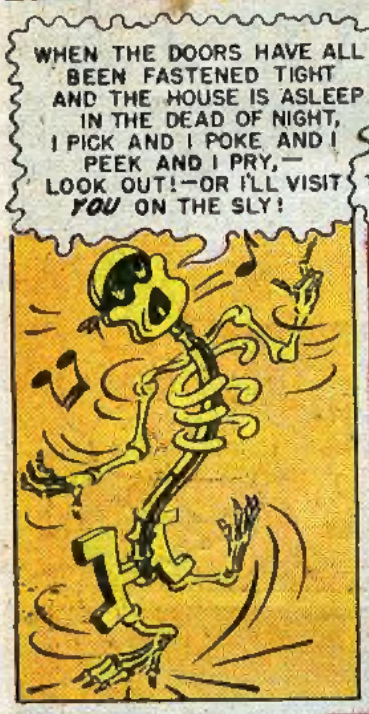

NOT AFTER COMING ALL THIS WAY!
OPEN THAT DOOR! I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYTHING ELSE!
CLICK!


BUT THERE'S SOMEONE WAITING TO SEE *YOU!*
YOU WERE A LONG TIME COMING, TURNKEY! HIS NIBS IS GROWING IMPATIENT!
BILLY! IT - IT'S SLYLOCK— *BLUEBEARD'S KEY!*

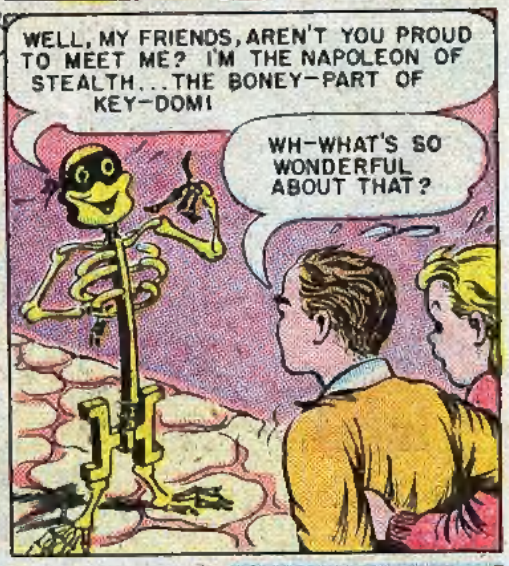
HIS NIBS? WHO— WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'LL FIND OUT WHEN WE OPEN THE CLOSET AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR!

THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR!
IT'S COMING TOWARD US!

RATTLE!
RATTLE!
LISTEN TO IT RATTLE! IT'S A SKELETON!
OH, BILLY— I'M SCARED!


WHEN THE DOORS HAVE ALL BEEN FASTENED TIGHT AND THE HOUSE IS ASLEEP IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, I PICK AND I POKE AND I PEEK AND I PRY,— LOOK OUT!—OR I'LL VISIT YOU ON THE SLY!

I'M THE CRIMINAL'S HELPER— THE BURGLAR'S FRIEND, AND THEY TELL ME I'LL COME TO A VERY BAD END! BUT I'M TOO SMART FOR THEM ALL—HEE, HEE! THERE'S NOTHING THAT'S SAFE FROM A SKELETON KEY!


WELL, MY FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU PROUD TO MEET ME? I'M THE NAPOLEON OF STEALTH... THE BONEY—PART OF KEY—DOM!
WH—WHAT'S SO WONDERFUL ABOUT THAT?

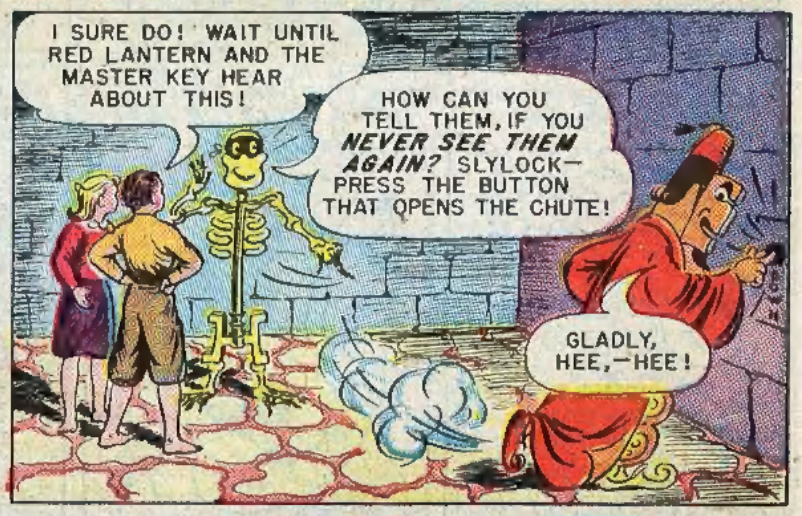
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE SOME POCKET MONEY? I CAN OPEN A CASH DRAWER!
WHY, THAT WOULD BE STEALING!

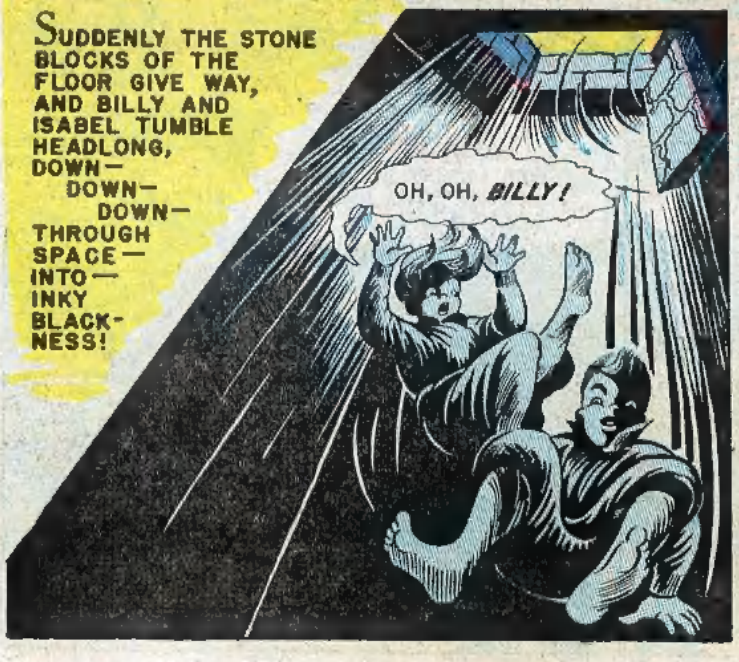
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE 100 % ON YOUR HISTORY TEST? I KNOW WHERE THE QUESTIONS ARE LOCKED UP!
BUT—BUT THAT WOULD BE CHEATING!

OH—A PAIR OF GOODY—GOODIES, EH? NO BACKBONE? WELL, I'M DIFFERENT! I WANT TO GET BACK WHERE I CAME FROM—BACK TO *CRIME!*
HUH?

I WANT TO GET BACK TO EARTH! AND I WANT *YOU* TO SMUGGLE ME OUT! YOU CAN SLIP ME PAST THE GUARDS...
SO YOU CAN HELP YOUR CROOK FRIENDS ROB BANKS AND BREAK INTO HOUSES? *NO!*

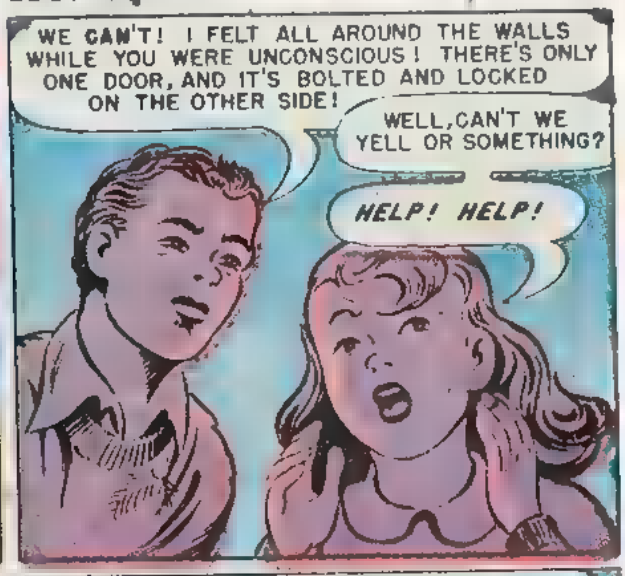
GOOD FOR YOU, BILLY!
WHAT? YOU *DEFY* ME?


I SURE DO! WAIT UNTIL RED LANTERN AND THE MASTER KEY HEAR ABOUT THIS!
HOW CAN YOU TELL THEM, IF YOU *NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN?* SLYLOCK—PRESS THE BUTTON THAT OPENS THE CHUTE!
GLADLY, HEE,—HEE!

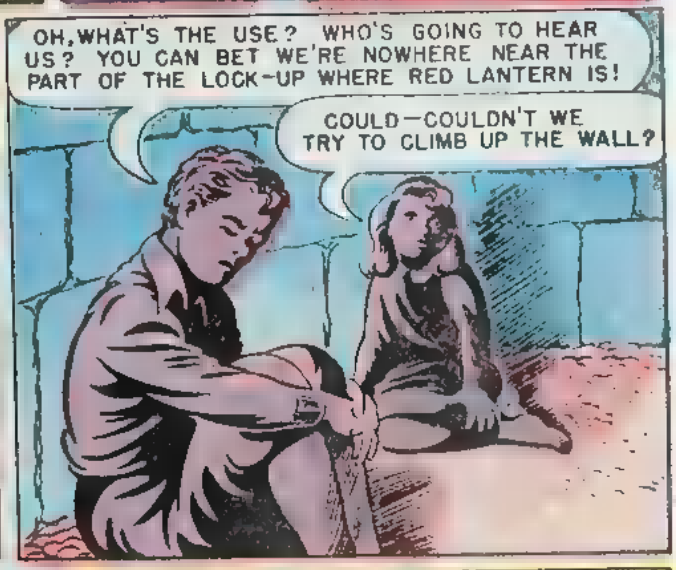

SUDDENLY THE STONE BLOCKS OF THE FLOOR GIVE WAY, AND BILLY AND ISABEL TUMBLE HEADLONG, DOWN— DOWN— DOWN— THROUGH SPACE— INTO— INKY BLACK-NESS!
OH, OH, *BILLY!*

THEN...
ISABEL, ISABEL ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? GEE, I THOUGHT YOU'D *NEVER* OPEN YOUR EYES!
OH, BILLY—I HAD THE MOST AWFUL DREAM! OH, IT *WASN'T* A DREAM! WE *DID* FALL!

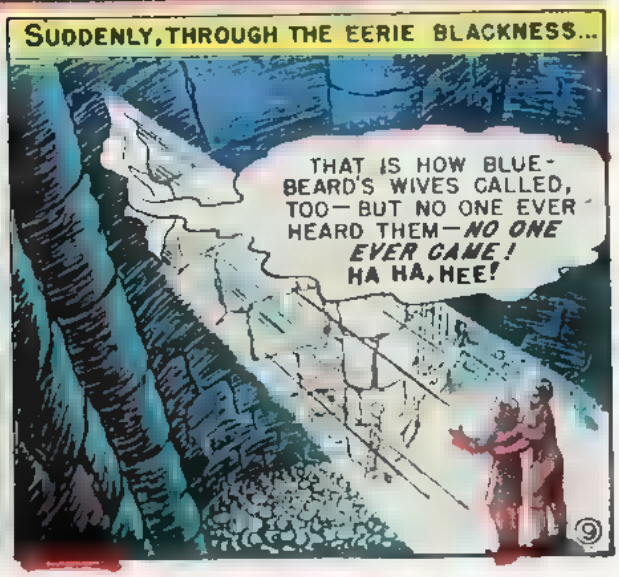
I'LL SAY IT WASN'T A DREAM! WE'RE IN THE SOUP ALL RIGHT!
BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT!


WE CAN'T! I FELT ALL AROUND THE WALLS WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS! THERE'S ONLY ONE DOOR, AND IT'S BOLTED AND LOCKED ON THE OTHER SIDE!
WELL, CAN'T WE YELL OR SOMETHING?
HELP! HELP!

HELP! HELP!
HELP! RED LANTERN! HELP! HELP! MASTER KEY!

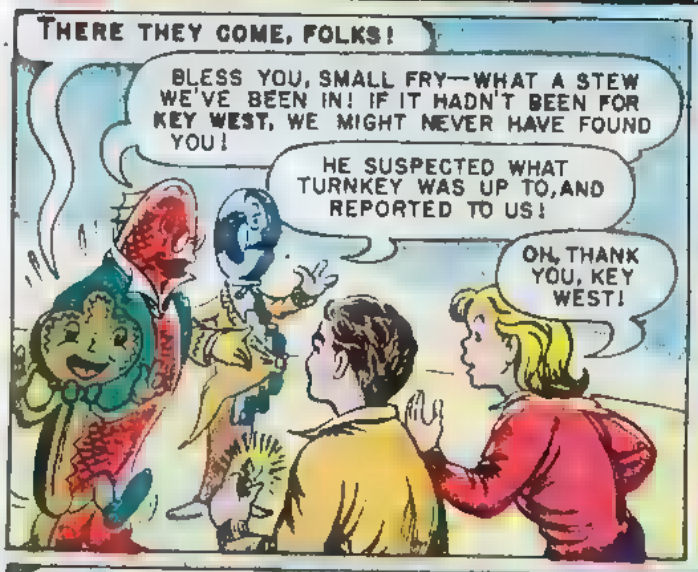

OH, WHAT'S THE USE? WHO'S GOING TO HEAR US? YOU CAN BET WE'RE NOWHERE NEAR THE PART OF THE LOCK-UP WHERE RED LANTERN IS!
COULD—COULDN'T WE TRY TO CLIMB UP THE WALL?

IT'S AS SMOOTH AS GLASS! AND THAT CHINK IS TOO SMALL EVEN TO STICK A HAND THROUGH! NO,— WE'VE GOT TO THINK...
I CAN'T THINK— I'M TOO FRIGHTENED! HELP! HELP!


SUDDENLY, THROUGH THE EERIE BLACKNESS...
THAT IS HOW BLUE-BEARD'S WIVES CALLED, TOO— BUT NO ONE EVER HEARD THEM—NO ONE EVER CAME! HA HA, HEE!

AND SO THE HOURS PASS, UNTIL...
OH, BILLY, MY THROAT IS STILL HOARSE FROM ALL THAT YELLING!
MINE TOO! WE MUST HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR HOURS!
IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE WE STOPPED. COULD—COULDN'T YOU TRY JUST ONCE MORE?
GOLLY, I'M AS HOARSE AS AN OLD CROW NOW! BUT I'LL TRY GIVING ONE MORE SQUAWK! HELP! HELP! HELP!
NEVER MIND, BILLY! I'M SORRY!
HALLOOOOO THERE!
HALLOOOOO POLLYWOGS! ISABEL! BILLY!
IT'S RED LANTERN! HELP! HELP!
RED LA-AAAANTERN! HELP!
WHERE ARE YOU?
HERE—HERE—AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DUNGEON!
SUFFERING STARFISH—I CAN'T SEE A THING! HOW ■ THE NAME OF NEPTUNE DID YOU GET THERE?
DOWN SOME KIND OF A CHUTE— THE SKELETON KEY HAD US DUMPED!
THERE'S A DOOR HERE, BUT IT'S LOCKED!

JUST KEEP YOUR NERVE UP, TADPOLES! I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN GET TO THAT DOOR! THIS PART OF THE LOCK-UP HASN'T BEEN USED FOR YEARS!
OH, DEAR—IT FEELS LIKE WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR YEARS TOO!
SHIVERING SHRIMP! THIS HOLE IS TOO LITTLE FOR ME TO SQUEEZE THROUGH!
SAY! I'VE GOT IT! RED LANTERN, YOU CAN DROP YOUR DIAMOND KEY THROUGH THE CHINK!
THAT'S RIGHT! MY MAGIC KEY! BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU COULD CATCH IT, BILLY? IF WE LOST THIS KEY WE'D BE A PRETTY FIX!
I'M THE BEST CATCHER IN THE JUNIOR LEAGUE!
THEN I'LL TAKE A CHANCE ON YOU, BILLY! GET READY—ON YOUR MARK... HERE GOES!
THE KEY COMES HURTLING DOWN THROUGH SPACE, UNTIL...
BULL'S EYE! I'VE GOT IT!
COME ON, BILLY! WHERE'S THAT DOOR?
AND USING THE MAGIC KEY...
OH, BOY! WE'RE THROUGH THAT ONE! COME ON, ISABEL!



AND A FEW MINUTES LATER—SAFE ON THE DOCK ONCE MORE...

THE STORY OF FEUDALISM

(5TH TO 15TH CENTURIES)

AFTER CHARLEMAGNE (717—814 A.D.) THE VAST EMPIRE OF WESTERN EUROPE FELL APART. HIS SUCCESSORS WERE WEAK, SO STRONG NOBLES MADE THEMSELVES KINGS OF THE VARIOUS TERRITORIES. BUT THESE NEW KINGS TRIED TO EXTEND THEIR KINGDOMS BY CONQUERING THEIR NEIGHBOR KINGS...

THE PEOPLE TURNED TO THE MOST POWERFUL NOBLE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR PROTECTION. THIS RELATIONSHIP CAME TO BE KNOWN AS *FEUDALISM*...

Please, sire — take our lands and give us but their use in return for your protection!

UNDER FEUDALISM, EVERY FREEMAN OWED ALLEGIANCE TO SOME OVERLORD, WHO IN TURN OWED ALLEGIANCE TO SOME HIGHER OVERLORD, AND SO ON TO THE KING...

Sir Hugh owes service directly to the King for his lands!

Many vassals owe service to *me*, while I owe service to my overlord!

VASSALS WHO OBTAINED THE USE OF LAND FROM AN OVERLORD PAID HOMAGE TO HIM...

I do homage my lord for these lands and will defend them against all invaders!

Arise and receive the kiss of peace!

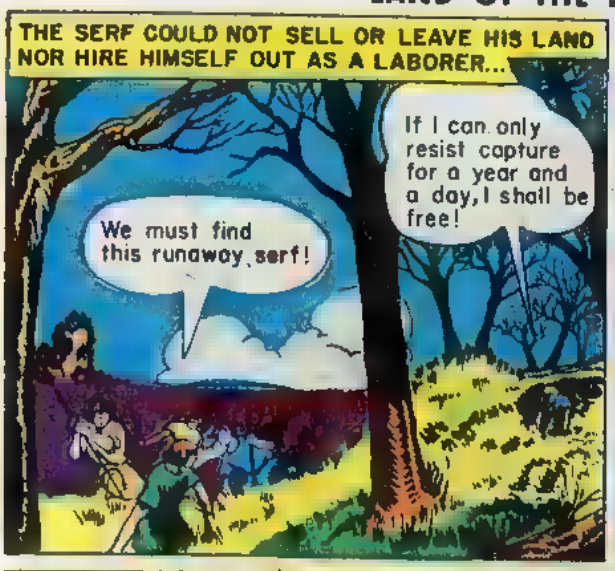
THE VASSAL ALSO OWED HIS LORD MILITARY SERVICE FOR 40 DAYS EACH YEAR, AS WELL AS SOME SPECIAL AIDS...

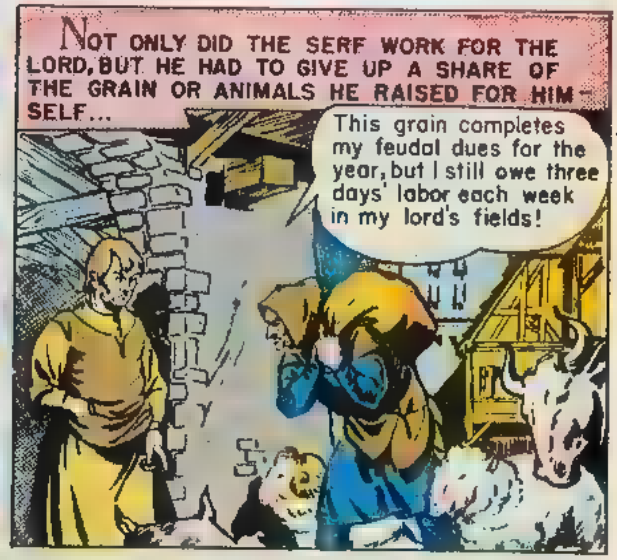
Alas! I must help my lord pay the expenses of knighting his son and marrying off his daughter!

And I just helped buy the freedom of my lord who was captured in war!

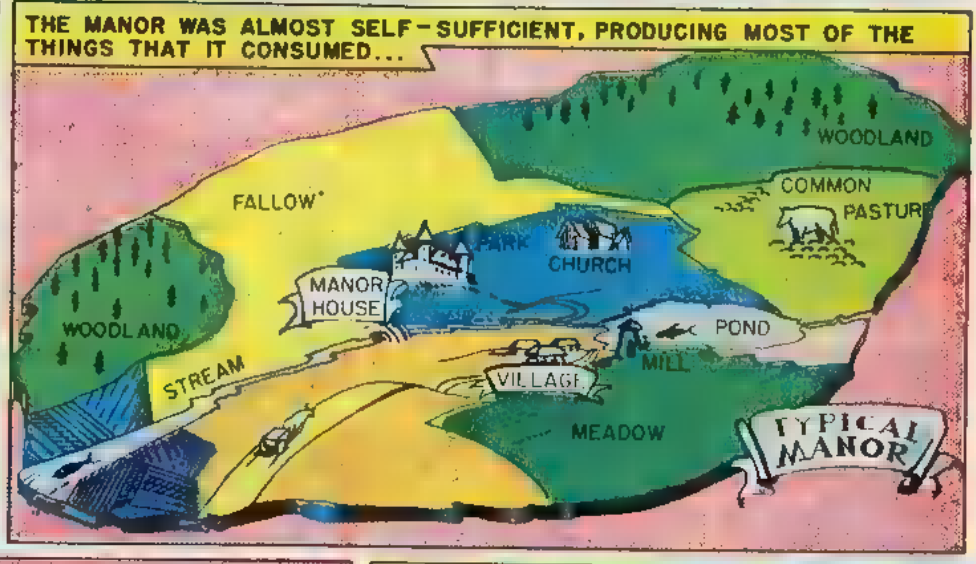
BELOW THE NOBLE CLASS WAS THE GREAT MASS OF PEASANTS, OR *SERFS*. WHILE THE LORDS DID THE FIGHTING, THE SERFS DID THE MANUAL LABOR...

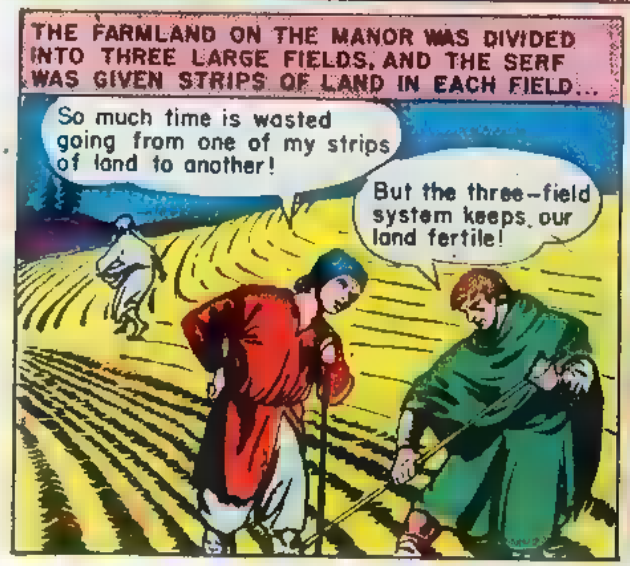
Our knight will be pleased with our labor. We have produced a plentiful harvest!

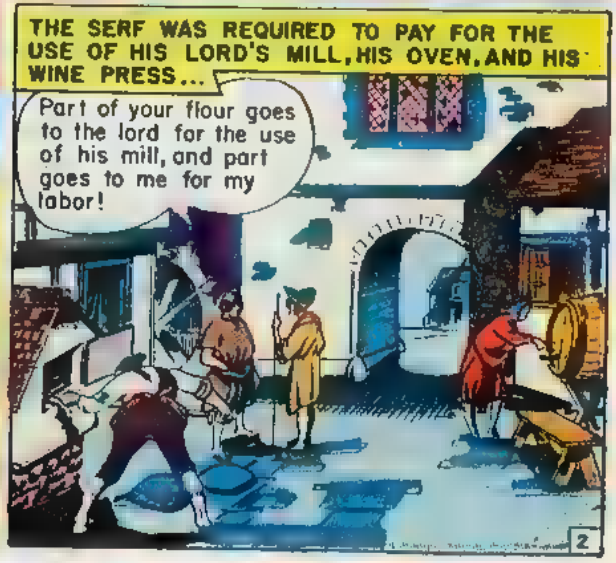




THE LARGE ESTATES OF THE LORDS WERE REALLY VILLAGE COMMUNITIES CALLED *MANORS*. EACH MANOR INCLUDED A CASTLE, BUILDINGS FOR THE SERVANTS AND ANIMALS, AND HUTS FOR THE SERFS, TOGETHER WITH THE PASTURE, WOODLAND AND FARMLAND NECESSARY FOR FARM LIVING...







TO PROTECT HIMSELF AND HIS VASSALS, THE LORD BUILT A STONE FORTRESS CALLED A *CASTLE* ON AN EASILY-DEFENDED HILLTOP NEAR THE CENTER OF HIS ESTATE...
FOR GREATER PROTECTION, A DITCH OR MOAT WAS DUG AROUND THE CASTLE AND A DRAW-BRIDGE WAS USED TO GAIN ENTRANCE...
Our enemy is so powerful that for greater protection we must deepen this moat to 40 feet!
THE STRONGHOLD OF THE CASTLE WAS A TOWER CALLED THE "DONJON" OR "KEEP" WHICH HAD STONE WALLS 8 TO 10 FEET THICK...
Until the enemy's attack ends, we must live in the dark and gloomy donjon!
THUS IT WAS EASIER TO *DEFEND* A CASTLE THAN TO *CAPTURE* ONE...
They do not yield!
Aye, our only hope of taking the castle now is to *starve* them out!
DURING A SIEGE, THE LORD AND HIS FAMILY LIVED IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE KEEP...
Strengthen yourselves with food and drink that we may continue to stave off the enemy!
THE LADIES OF THE CASTLE MANAGED THE HOUSEHOLD AND MADE THE CLOTHING...
This tapestry of mine will show father's victory over the Black Knight!
3

SINCE THE FEUDAL LORDS SPENT MOST OF THEIR TIME FIGHTING DURING THE MIDDLE AGES, LEARNING HOW TO FIGHT WAS A LARGE PART OF THE EDUCATION OF ALL YOUNG MEN OF RANK. THE TRAINING WAS LONG AND ARDUOUS AND CONTINUED FROM THE TIME A BOY WAS 7 UNTIL HE REACHED 21...

THE SON OF A LORD WAS TAUGHT AT HOME UNTIL HE WAS 7, WHEN HE WAS SENT TO AN OVERLORD'S CASTLE AS A PAGE...

Be obedient and serve your lord and lady well! Learn all that they teach you!

I will, Mother!

SO THE YOUNG PAGE LEARNED RELIGION AND POLITE BEHAVIOR FROM THE LADY OF THE CASTLE...

You must always defend your church and be courteous, true and kind!

AND FROM THE LORD OF THE CASTLE HE LEARNED HOW TO RIDE AND HANDLE HORSES...

Sit more securely when jumping a ditch. Give your horse a rub-down, then shine my armor!

Yes, sire!

WHEN THE PAGE WAS 14 YEARS OLD, HE ENTERED THE SECOND STAGE OF TRAINING FOR KNIGHTHOOD AND BECAME A SQUIRE...

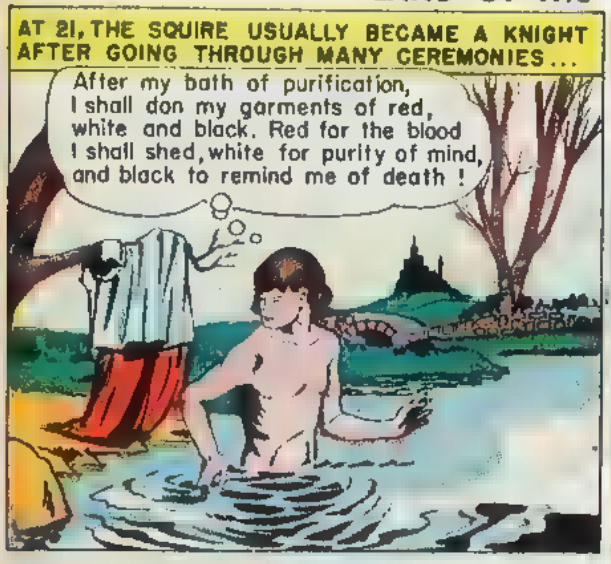
Today my lord praised my skill with lance and ax.

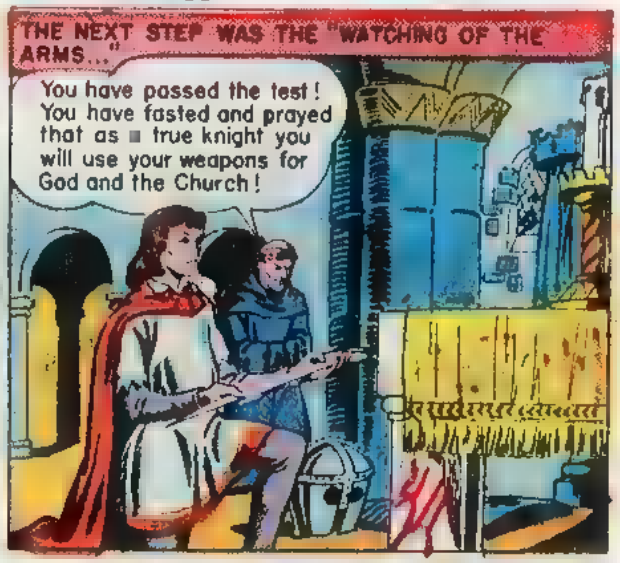
But you still need practice with the sword and mace!

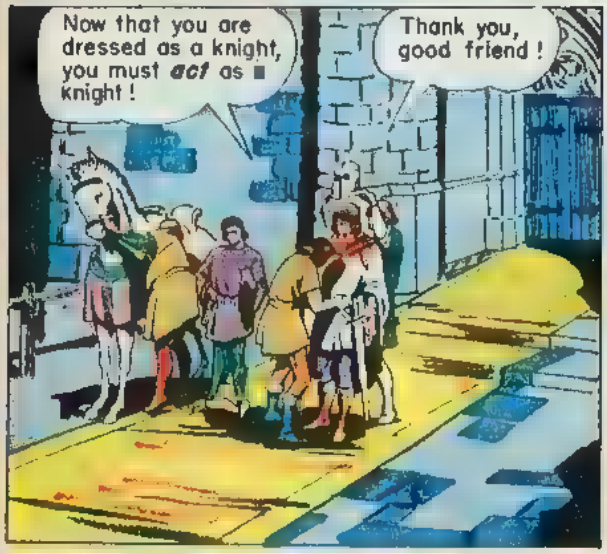
THE SQUIRE ATTENDED HIS LORD IN BATTLE, CARRYING HIS WEAPONS AND ARMOR...

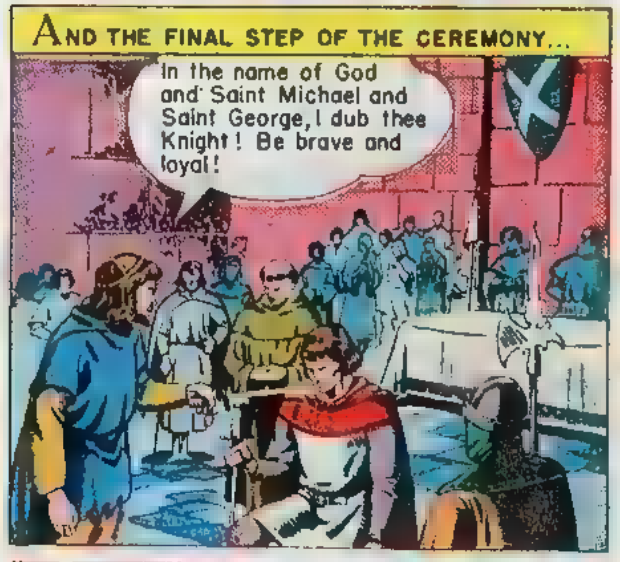
Your weapons are in readiness, sire!

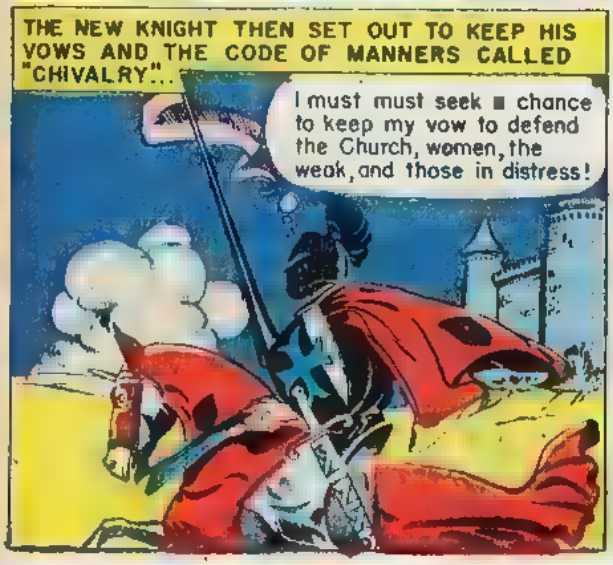
Good! Now let us find the wicked knight I seek!

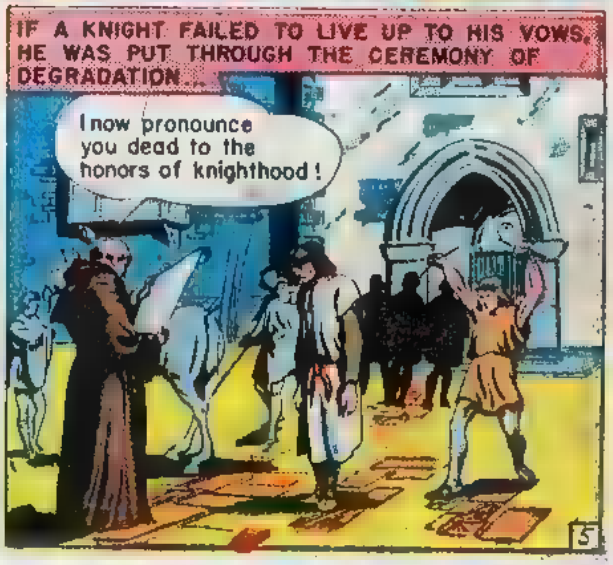

AT 21, THE SQUIRE USUALLY BECAME A KNIGHT AFTER GOING THROUGH MANY CEREMONIES...
After my bath of purification, I shall don my garments of red, white and black. Red for the blood I shall shed, white for purity of mind, and black to remind me of death !


THE NEXT STEP WAS THE "WATCHING OF THE ARMS..."
You have passed the test ! You have fasted and prayed that as a true knight you will use your weapons for God and the Church !

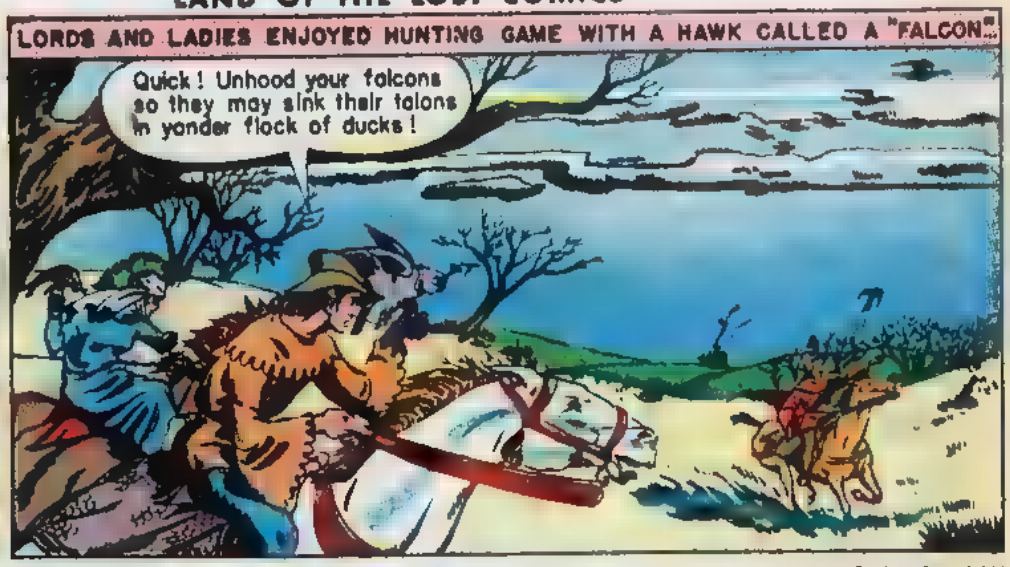

Now that you are dressed as a knight, you must *act* as a knight !
Thank you, good friend !

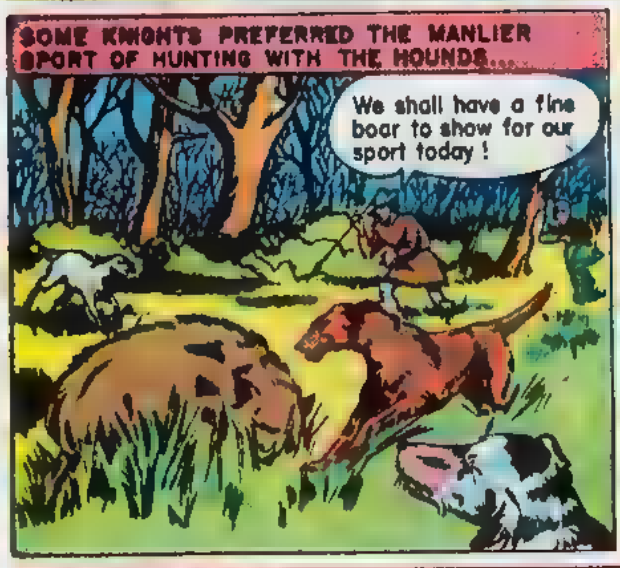

AND THE FINAL STEP OF THE CEREMONY...
In the name of God and Saint Michael and Saint George, I dub thee Knight ! Be brave and loyal !

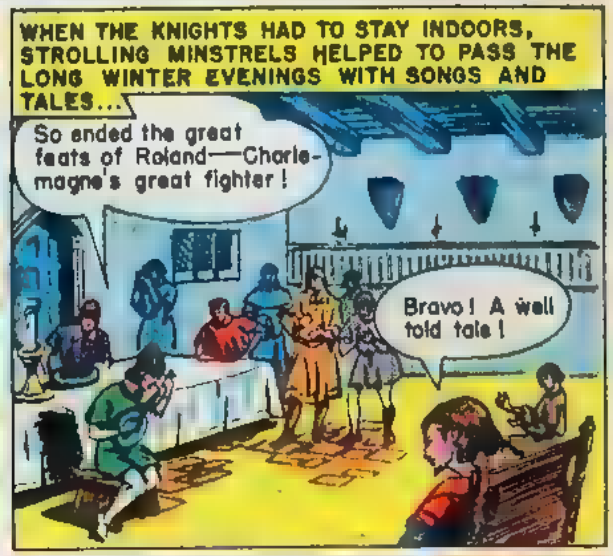

THE NEW KNIGHT THEN SET OUT TO KEEP HIS VOWS AND THE CODE OF MANNERS CALLED "CHIVALRY"...
I must must seek a chance to keep my vow to defend the Church, women, the weak, and those in distress !


IF A KNIGHT FAILED TO LIVE UP TO HIS VOWS, HE WAS PUT THROUGH THE CEREMONY OF DEGRADATION...
I now pronounce you dead to the honors of knighthood !

WHEN THE KNIGHTS WERE NOT FIGHTING, LIFE SEEMED DULL AND THEY LONGED FOR EXCITEMENT AND ENTERTAINMENT. TOURNAMENTS, HUNTING AND MINSTRELS FURNISHED THEIR CHIEF MEANS OF RELAXATION...







AS A FORM OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, FEUDALISM SEEMED TO BE A BACKWARD STEP FROM GREEK AND ROMAN DEVELOPMENT. BUT, AS WE SHALL SEE, IT WAS REALLY A STEP *FORWARD* TOWARD THE CIVILIZATION OF THE MODERN WORLD...

HOME OF THE METAL MEN

SYNOPSIS: Jim Brentwood, famous young Astronomer, discovers that life exists on the planetoid Zesta. With his wife, Doris, and her kid-brother, Freddy . . . who is a stowaway on Jim's Spaceship, SHOOTING COMET . . . he heads for Zesta, 3,000,000 miles away! He discovers when he lands that the people of Zesta, called Zoopians, are made of *METAL!* And though they appear to be friendly, the Earth-people . . . or Soft Ones, as the Zoopians call them . . . cannot come within three feet of the Metal Men without receiving a violent shock! Jim, Doris and Freddy are brought before Queen Ra, and when she asks what Earth-people do for amusement, Freddy whips out his harmonica and begins to play!

THE QUEEN was pleased with Freddy's playing, and she said to Jim: "What else do you do for amusement?"

"We - - - have pets."

"What are *PETS?*"

"Lower forms of life," Jim explained. "We call them 'dogs' and 'cats' and 'birds'."

"That is our trouble," said the Queen, sadly. "We are a nation of scientists. All of our work is done by electricity. We have plenty of time to play—but nothing to play with. There are no other forms of life on Zoop-I-Ay but us. We were getting horribly bored, when our great men called this conference to find something to amuse us. YOU, Earth-man, amuse us. Will you stay?"

Jim was eager to stay in Zoop-I-Ay, at least until he learned more about this strange civilization, so he agreed readily.

"*Woo-Pee-Ay,*" the Queen addressed one of the Zoopians, "The Soft Ones will stay at your house."

Woo-Pee-Ay bowed and took Jim, Doris and Freddy down to the street again. As they walked along, Jim asked a question that had been troubling him: "Have you no water in Zoop-I-Ay? I don't see a lake or a river anywhere!"

"Oh, *NO!*" said Woo-Pee-Ay, "Many years ago, we dried up every body of water on this planet — except a few wells, which are kept carefully guarded."

"Why?"

"We are afraid of water. IT RUSTS us!" said Woo-Pee-Ay. In fact, that is the Capital Punishment on Zoop-I-Ay — *RUSTITATION!* When the death-sentence is pronounced upon a criminal, we stand him under a cold shower and he rusts to death!"

THEY FINALLY REACHED Woo-Pee-Ay's house, and his tall orange wife immediately set to work preparing dinner. The meal consisted of a single course—some sort of liquid in a bowl.

"This is delicious," said Doris, choking down the stuff, "what is it?"

"Zoop," answered the female Zoopian. "It is our only food and it contains all the elements of a balanced diet. We women of Zoop-I-Ay don't have to bother with recipes. We have one balanced food and serve it at every meal! Isn't that clever?"

"Very," said Doris. "How do you make it?"

"Oh, we cook it ourselves," tittered the female Zoopian. "The Queen has a central kitchen where a big staff of cooks makes the Zoop for all the land. Then the Zoop is run through a pipe-system. All we do is turn on the faucet and fill our bowls!"

When the meal was over, the Earth-people were in for an even greater surprise - - - for the Zoopians began to *eat their plates!*

When Mrs. Woo-Pee-Ay saw how astonished her guests were, she explained: "Our plates are made of hardened Zoop. We always eat the dishes after our meals because that saves us the trouble of washing them!"

"Oh, said Doris, weakly.

JIM, DORIS AND FREDDY stayed at the house of Woo-Pee-Ay for three days, and things ran along smoothly. Then one day the Queen held another conference.

"Zoopians," she said, "the problem for which we held the Great Conference has at last been solved! We now have a source of amusement - - - *Earth-Men!* My plan is to invade the Earth and capture several thousand of these Earthlings for our Zoos. They can sing and dance for us, and we can even

let the little Zoopians feed them. What do you think of my plan?"

The air fairly crackled with electric waves . . . the Zoopians were THAT excited!

"I have had their Spaceship seized," Queen Ra went on, "and the Engineers of Zoop-I-Ay are even now devising a way to build ships similar to theirs, with which we can invade the Earth! Until our plan is carried out we will keep the Soft Ones safely in jail. I also note that the male Soft One carries a strange box which he talks to . . . and which answers him. I will have it taken away and placed in our Museum."

So, on their fourth day in Zoop-I-Ay, Jim's radio . . . his only means of communication with the Earth . . . was taken away from him, and together with Doris and Freddy, he was marched off to OOPS, the State Prison.

"Oh, moaned Doris, "what a honeymoon! Why didn't you take me to Bermuda like I asked you?"

"Cheer up, Sis!" said Freddy, "I've got an idea!"

"What?" cried Jim and Doris.

"Well, bullets won't hurt the Zoopians - - - they roll off - - - so YOUR gun isn't any good! But *MINE* is - - -"

"YOUR gun - - - ?"

"My *WATER-GUN!* It's filled too - - - I'll rust 'em!"

They had no time to say another word, for the jailer was approaching with their Zoop. But as the jailer turned to go, Freddy whipped out his water-gun and rusted him! Before the three could make their escape, however, a dozen Zoopians came rushing toward them. Jim and Doris were cornered, but not Freddy! He weighed only two pounds on Zesta, so he pulled out the cardboard fans he had kept with him, and flew out of the jail and over the prison wall!

NEXT STEP was to get Jim's radio and broadcast to the earth. It was night, which was a help to Freddy. He overpowered the Museum guard with his water-gun, found the radio and broadcast a message: "Zesta calling Earth! Jim and Doris Brentwood captured by Zoopians, who threaten invasion of the Earth! Send squadron of Spaceships and arm all men with *Water-Guns!* Also, a Fire Hose and a good supply of WATER - - -!"

It would be two days before the Earth-men could get here, and in the meantime Freddy had to eat. He broke into one of the houses and took a large can of Zoop. Then he flew over the wall of the city and waited for the Spaceships from Earth, nestling close to some tall plants so that a search-party would not find him. Freddy prayed that the Earth-men would get there before the Zoopian Engineers finished work on the Spaceships they were building.

The two days that followed seemed eternities, but at last Freddy saw them - - - twenty-four Spaceships from Earth! One hundred men with water-guns climbed out of the ships and followed Freddy to the jail, where they rusted all the Zoopians who stood in their way, and rescued Jim and Doris. When they had taken care of the Zoopian Engineers, they went back to Jim's Spaceship, SHOOTING COMET, and prepared for the battle with the remaining Metal Men. Turning their Fire Hose on full-blast, the Earth-men rusted hundreds of Zoopians, and then made their way back to the twenty-four Spaceships which the new arrivals had used.

Jim, Doris and Freddy settled wearily in back of one of these new ships, worn out with the adventures of the last few days. "There are still a few hundred Zoopians alive on this planet. Do you suppose they'll try any monkey business?"

"No, they've learned their lesson," the scientist replied, "we have a weapon they don't dare combat - - - WATER!"

AS THE SPACESHIP neared the Earth, Doris whispered something in the pilot's ear and slipped something into his hand, whereupon the ship seemed to veer slightly off its course. When Jim, Doris and Freddy finally set foot on good old terra firma, they were in BERMUDA!

"What th - - -" Jim exclaimed, as the Spaceship quickly roared off again. "He was supposed to leave us off in New York! I have no laboratory here - - - no telescope - - - !"

"That's just lovely," Doris exulted. "I said we'd spend our honeymoon on Bermuda . . . and we *will!*"

Doris walked nearer the water to inhale the fresh salt air. Thank goodness . . . no more Zoopians! No more strange planetoids . . . no more star-gazing!

At that very moment Freddy was tugging at Jim's elbow, and the cloud which had settled on the scientist's brow suddenly cleared.

"Don't let her see it!" Jim whispered, "Not yet, anyway!"

Freddy grinned, and pushed the shiny telescope back into his pocket!

THE END

Land of the Lost

RED LANTERN TAKES BILLY AND ISABEL (WITH THEIR MAGIC SEAWEED, WHICH HELPS THEM BREATHE UNDER WATER) DOWN TO THE *LAND OF THE LOST*, WHERE ALL THINGS LOST ON EARTH GO— AND THERE THEY RUN INTO AN EXCITING ADVENTURE WITH *KID SQUID* IN

"THE GREAT BANK ROBBERY!"

SAND BANK

HI, FELLA!

WELL, WELL, KID SQUID! HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW JOB?

ALL RIGHT.... IT'S EIGHT OR TENECLE, OR A HALF DOZEN OF THE OTHER! IT KEEPS ME AND MINE SWIMMING!

OUR FRIENDS ARE ON THE FAMOUS GREAT WET WAY IN THE LAND OF THE LOST...

HEY, RED LANTERN—LET'S STOP IN HERE AND SAY HELLO TO KID SQUID!

BACK WATER THERE, TADPOLES!

YES, LET'S! WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR...

SWIMMIGRATION BUREAU

OYSTER BAR

FISH TALES

INN'S

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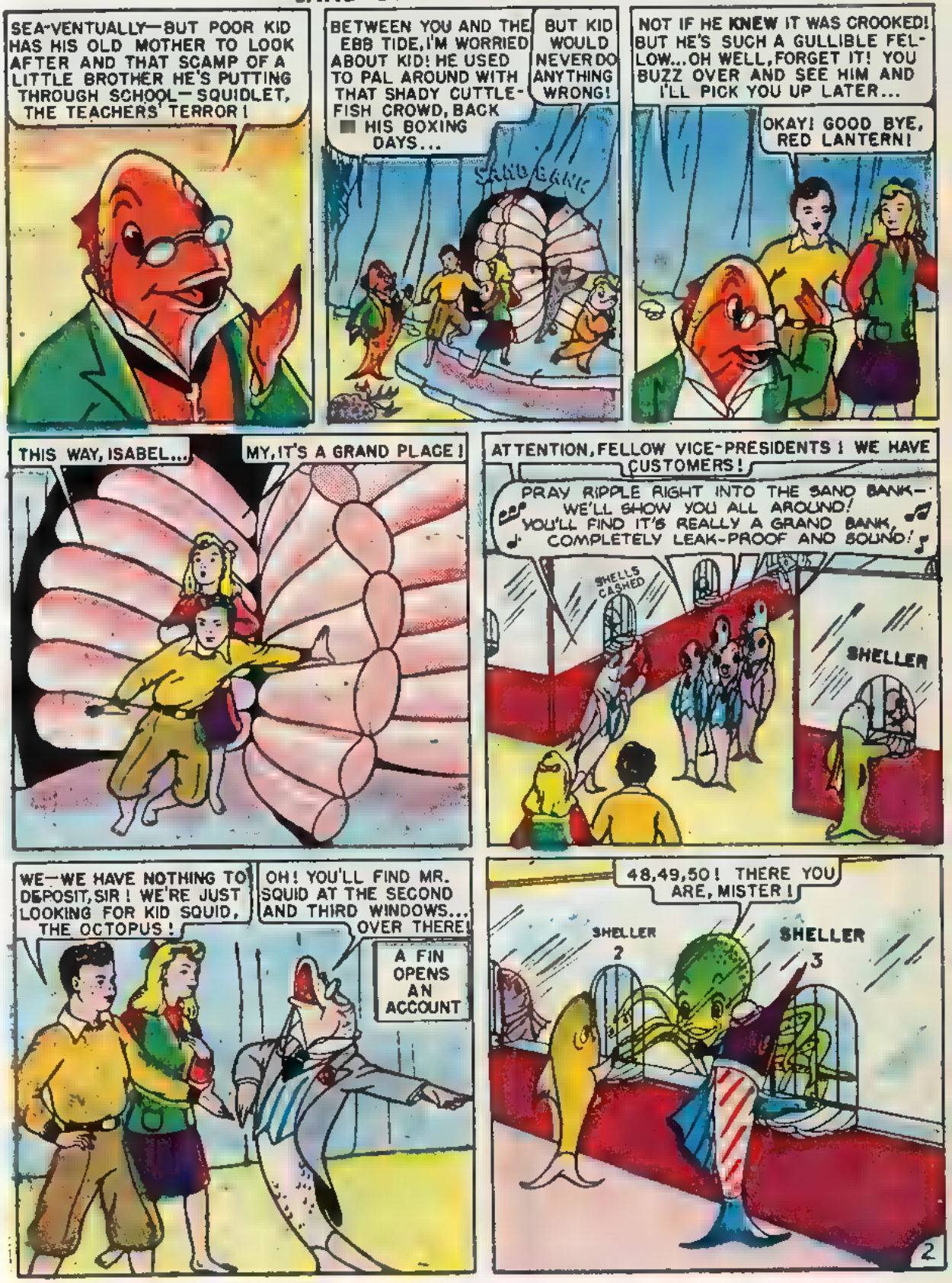
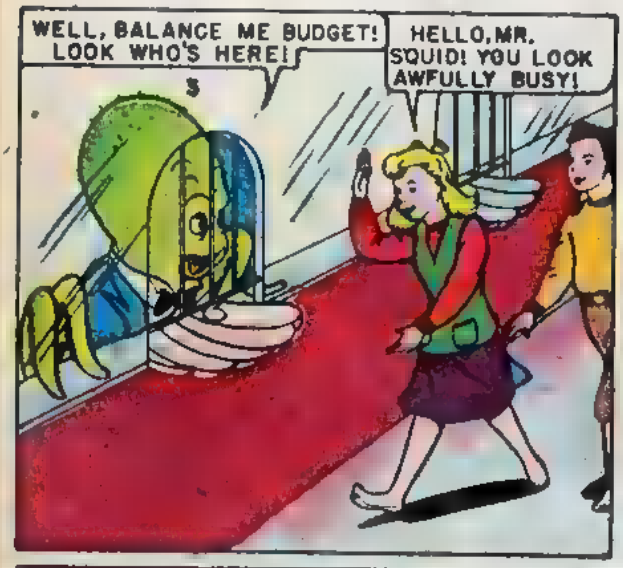
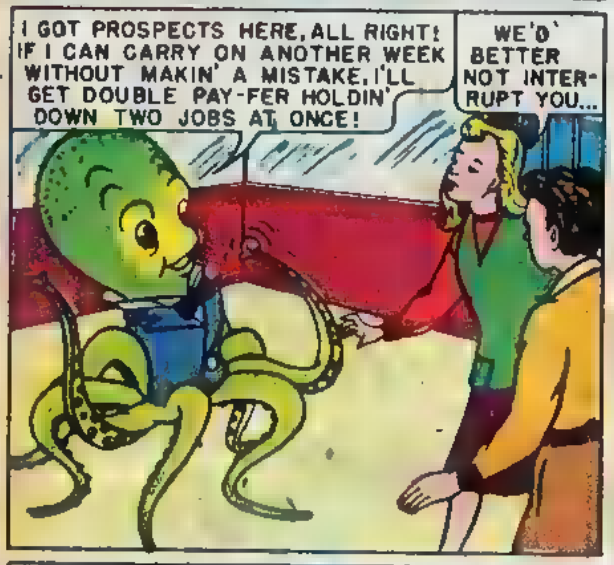
YOU WON'T FIND KID HERE.... HE WORKS AT THE SAND BANK NOW! MORE IN THE PAY ENVELOPE—AND NEPTUNE KNOWS HE CAN USE IT!

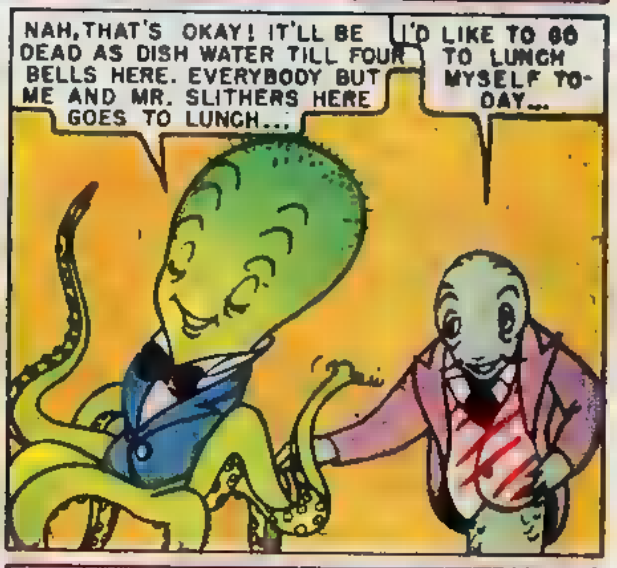
YOU MEAN, SO HE CAN MARRY JENNY JELLYFISH?

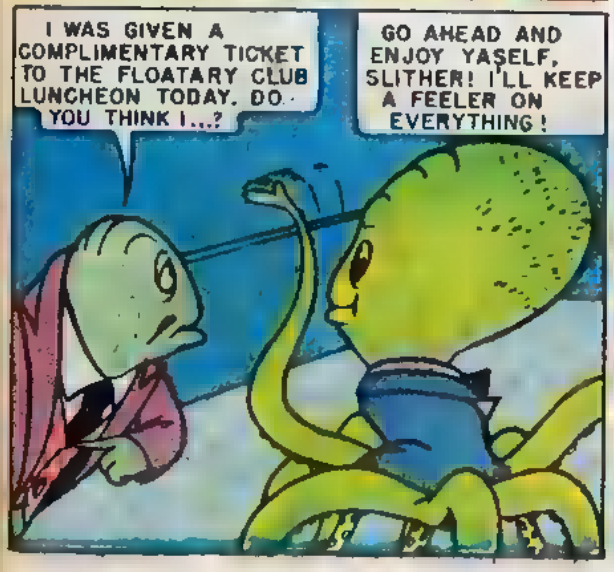

SEA-VENTUALLY—BUT POOR KID HAS HIS OLD MOTHER TO LOOK AFTER AND THAT SCAMP OF A LITTLE BROTHER HE'S PUTTING THROUGH SCHOOL—SQUIDLET, THE TEACHERS' TERROR!
BETWEEN YOU AND THE EBB TIDE, I'M WORRIED ABOUT KID! HE USED TO PAL AROUND WITH THAT SHADY CUTTLE-FISH CROWD, BACK IN HIS BOXING DAYS...
BUT KID WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING WRONG!
SAND BANK
NOT IF HE KNEW IT WAS CROOKED! BUT HE'S SUCH A GULLIBLE FELLOW...OH WELL, FORGET IT! YOU BUZZ OVER AND SEE HIM AND I'LL PICK YOU UP LATER...
OKAY! GOOD BYE, RED LANTERN!
THIS WAY, ISABEL...
MY, IT'S A GRAND PLACE!
ATTENTION, FELLOW VICE-PRESIDENTS! WE HAVE CUSTOMERS!
PRAY RIPPLE RIGHT INTO THE SAND BANK— WE'LL SHOW YOU ALL AROUND! YOU'LL FIND IT'S REALLY A GRAND BANK, COMPLETELY LEAK-PROOF AND SOUND!
SHELLS CASHED
SHELLER
WE—WE HAVE NOTHING TO DEPOSIT, SIR! WE'RE JUST LOOKING FOR KID SQUID, THE OCTOPUS!
OH! YOU'LL FIND MR. SQUID AT THE SECOND AND THIRD WINDOWS... OVER THERE!
A FIN OPENS AN ACCOUNT
48,49,50! THERE YOU ARE, MISTER!
SHELLER 2
SHELLER 3
2

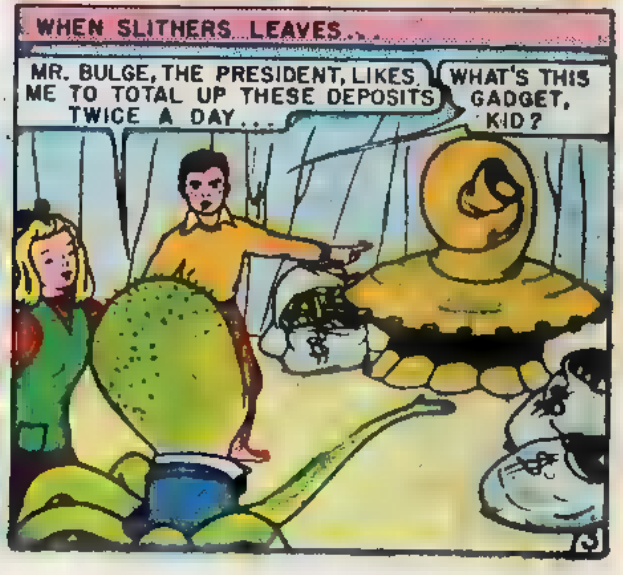

WELL, BALANCE ME BUDGET! LOOK WHO'S HERE!
HELLO, MR. SQUID! YOU LOOK AWFULLY BUSY!

BUSY! IF ME RIGHT HANDS EVER STOPPED TO THINK WHAT ME LEFT WAS DOIN', I'D GO NUTS! COME IN...
THANKS, KID!

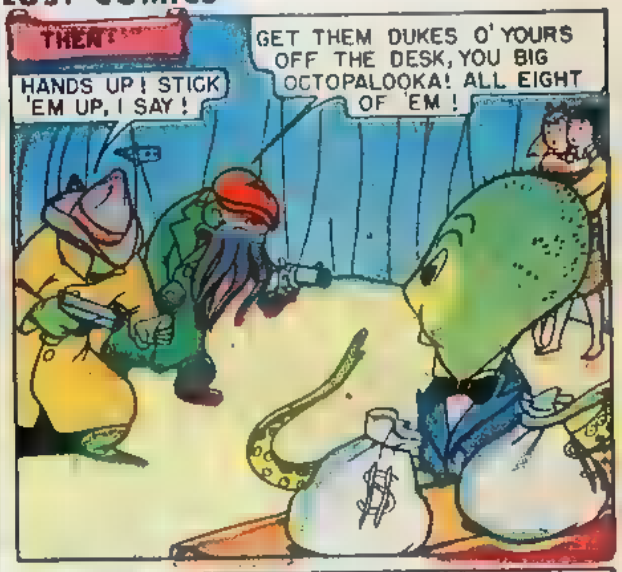

I GOT PROSPECTS HERE, ALL RIGHT! IF I CAN CARRY ON ANOTHER WEEK WITHOUT MAKIN' A MISTAKE, I'LL GET DOUBLE PAY-FER HOLDIN' DOWN TWO JOBS AT ONCE!
WE'D BETTER NOT INTERRUPT YOU...

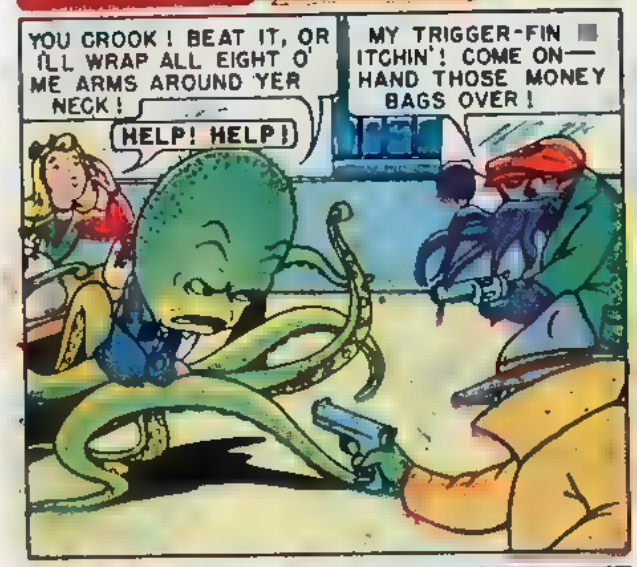

NAH, THAT'S OKAY! IT'LL BE DEAD AS DISH WATER TILL FOUR BELLS HERE. EVERYBODY BUT ME AND MR. SLITHERS HERE GOES TO LUNCH...
I'D LIKE TO GO TO LUNCH MYSELF TODAY...

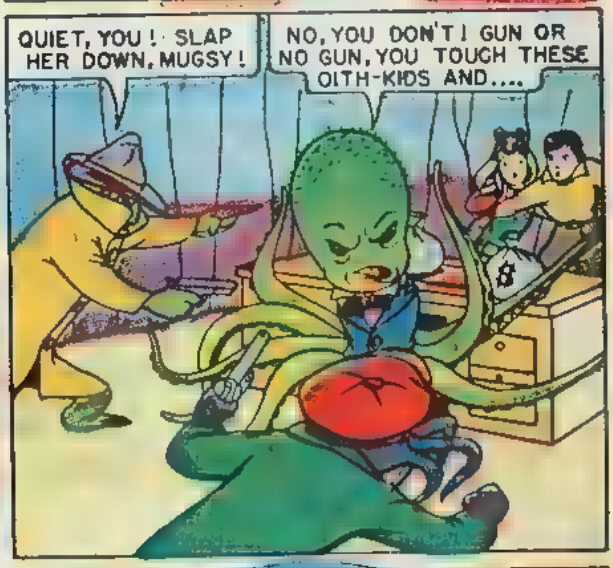

I WAS GIVEN A COMPLIMENTARY TICKET TO THE FLOATARY CLUB LUNCHEON TODAY. DO YOU THINK I...?
GO AHEAD AND ENJOY YASELF, SLITHER! I'LL KEEP A FEELER ON EVERYTHING!

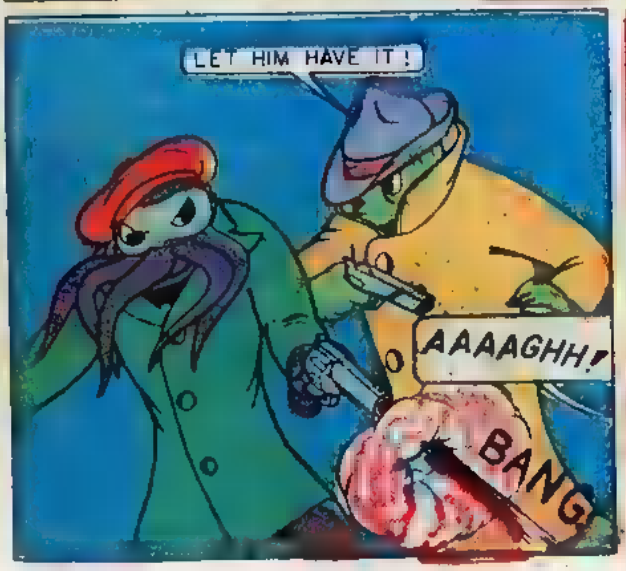

WHEN SLITHERS LEAVES...
MR. BULGE, THE PRESIDENT, LIKES ME TO TOTAL UP THESE DEPOSITS TWICE A DAY...
WHAT'S THIS GADGET, KID?

THAT'S A SPLASH REGISTER AND —
WHAT'S THAT? EEEEEEE ROBBERS!

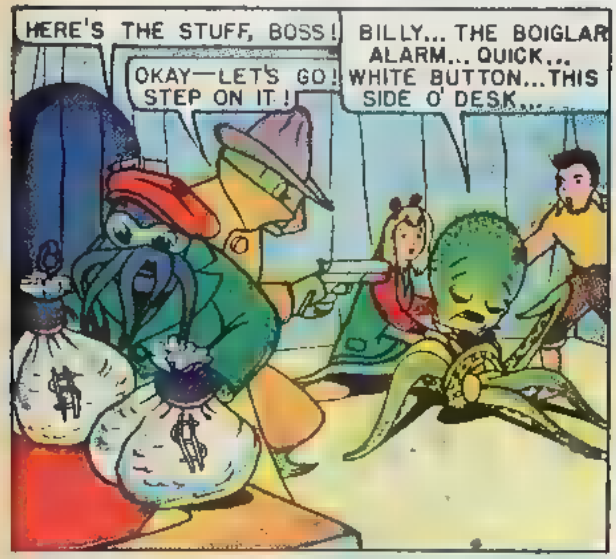

THEN!
HANDS UP! STICK 'EM UP, I SAY!
GET THEM DUKES O' YOURS OFF THE DESK, YOU BIG OCTOPALOOKA! ALL EIGHT OF 'EM!

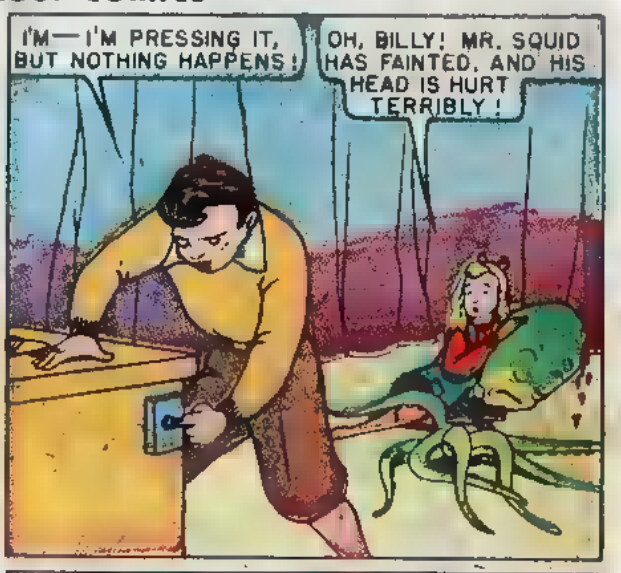

YOU CROOK! BEAT IT, OR I'LL WRAP ALL EIGHT O' ME ARMS AROUND YER NECK!
HELP! HELP!
MY TRIGGER-FIN ITCHIN'! COME ON— HAND THOSE MONEY BAGS OVER!

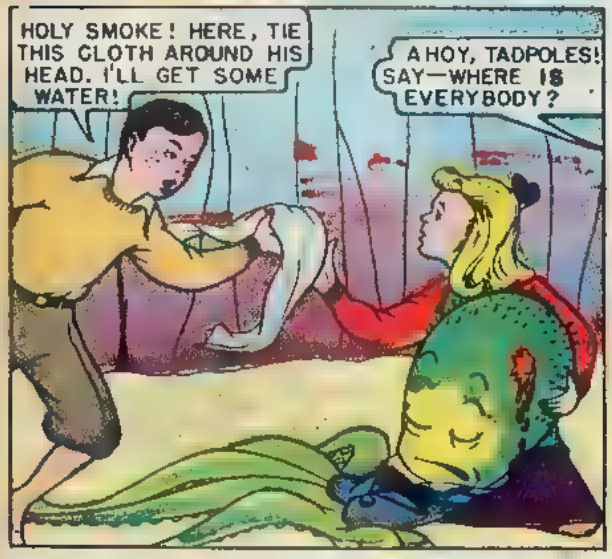

QUIET, YOU! SLAP HER DOWN, MUGSY!
NO, YOU DON'T! GUN OR NO GUN, YOU TOUCH THESE OITH-KIDS AND....

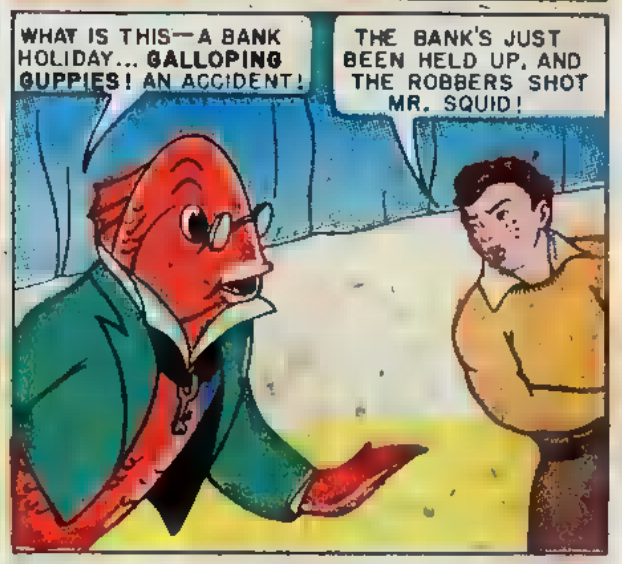

LET HIM HAVE IT!
AAAAGHH!
BANG

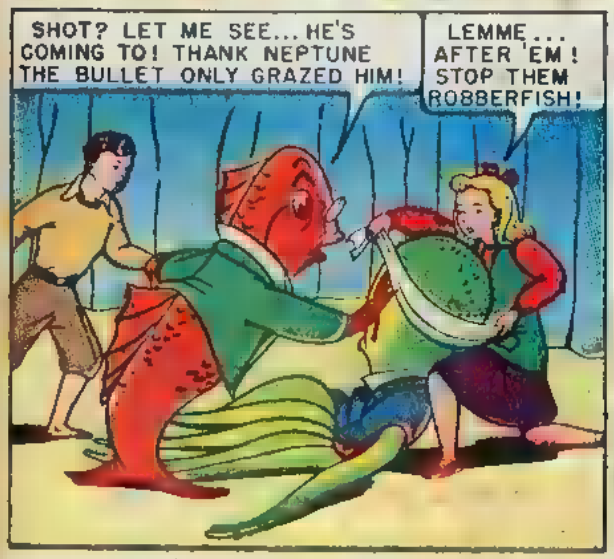
THEY'VE SHOT HIM! THEY'VE SHOT KID!
AHHHHH!...

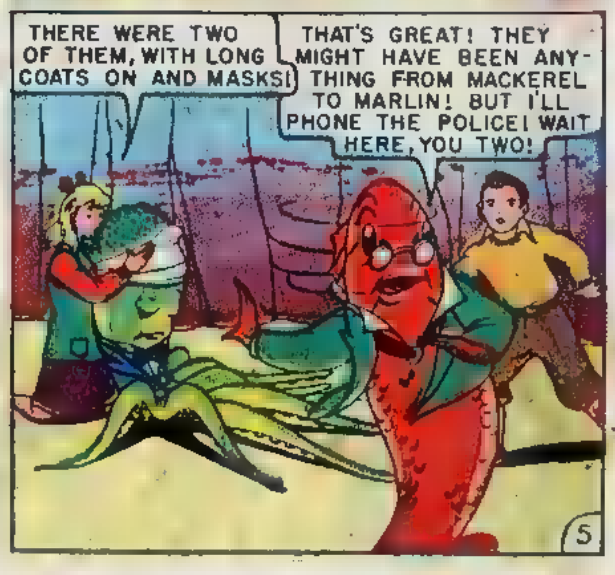

HERE'S THE STUFF, BOSS!
OKAY—LET'S GO! STEP ON IT!
BILLY... THE BOIGLAR ALARM... QUICK... WHITE BUTTON...THIS SIDE O' DESK...

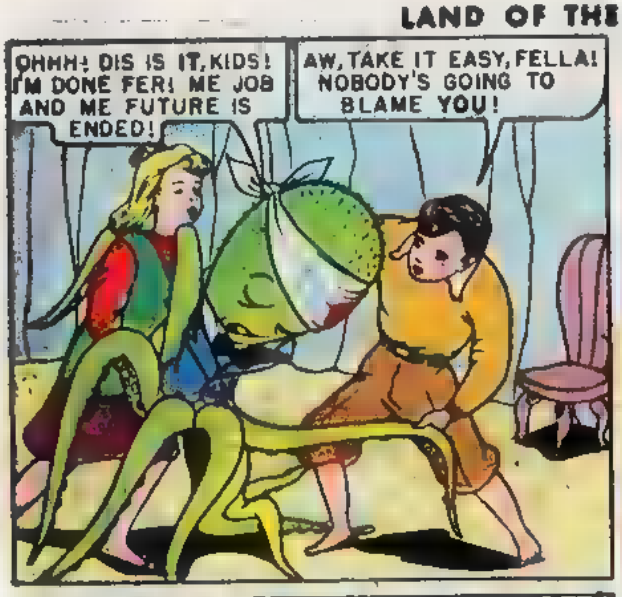

I'M—I'M PRESSING IT, BUT NOTHING HAPPENS!
OH, BILLY! MR. SQUID HAS FAINTED, AND HIS HEAD IS HURT TERRIBLY!


HOLY SMOKE! HERE, TIE THIS CLOTH AROUND HIS HEAD. I'LL GET SOME WATER!
AHOY, TADPOLES! SAY—WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

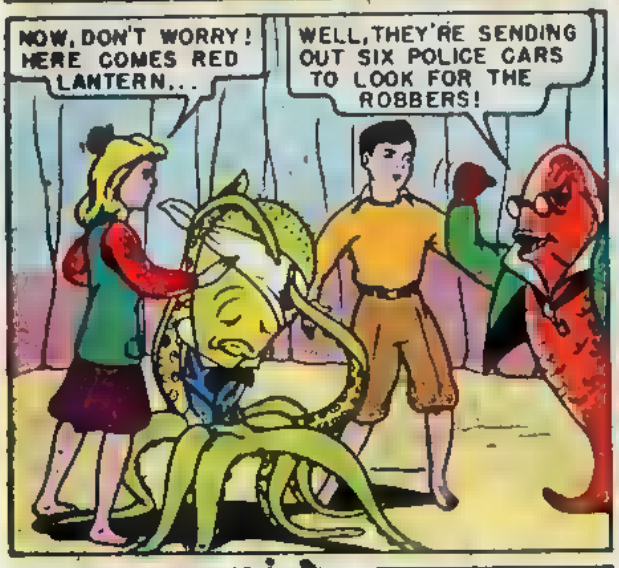

WHAT IS THIS—A BANK HOLIDAY... GALLOPING GUPPIES! AN ACCIDENT!
THE BANK'S JUST BEEN HELD UP, AND THE ROBBERS SHOT MR. SQUID!

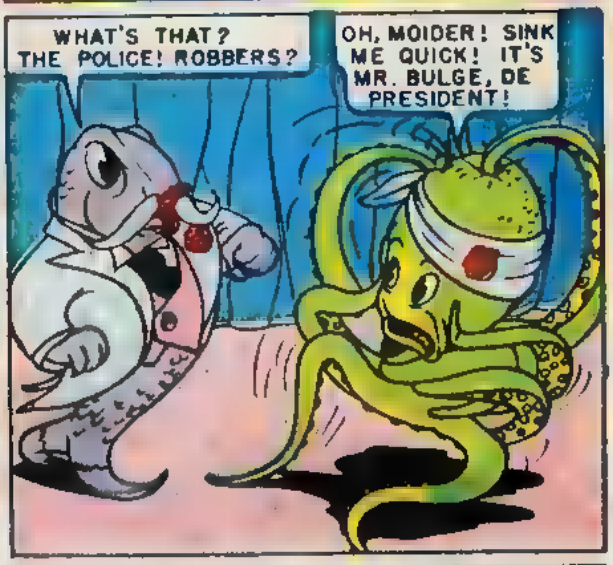

SHOT? LET ME SEE... HE'S COMING TO! THANK NEPTUNE THE BULLET ONLY GRAZED HIM!
LEMME... AFTER 'EM! STOP THEM ROBBERFISH!

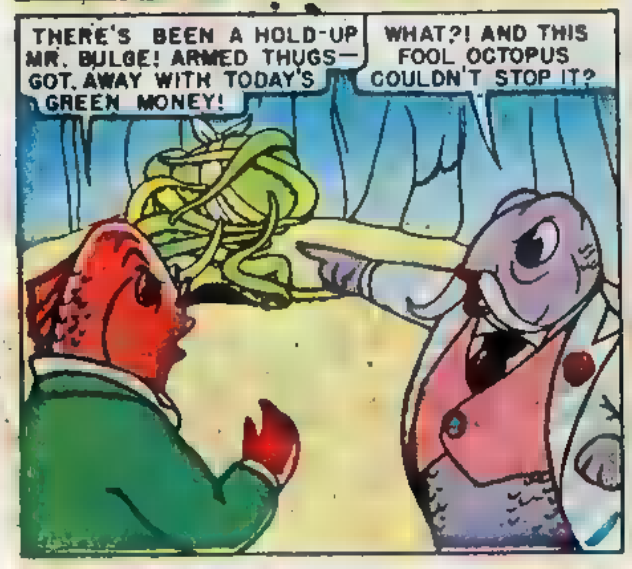

THERE WERE TWO OF THEM, WITH LONG COATS ON AND MASKS!
THAT'S GREAT! THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN ANYTHING FROM MACKEREL TO MARLIN! BUT I'LL PHONE THE POLICE! WAIT HERE, YOU TWO!

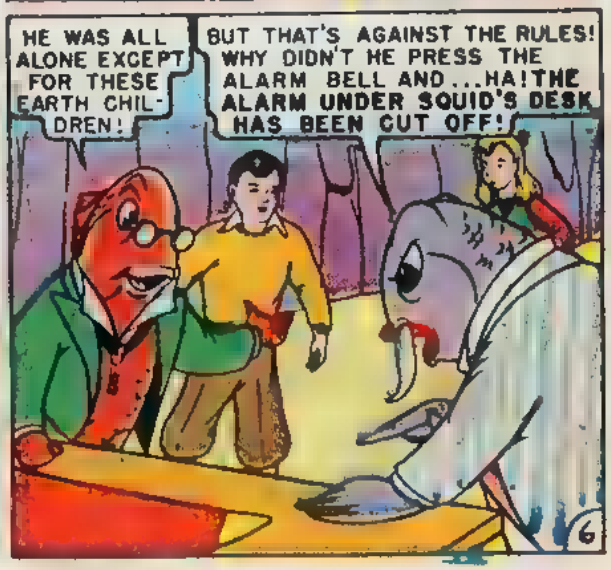

OHHH! DIS IS IT, KIDS! I'M DONE FER! ME JOB AND ME FUTURE IS ENDED!
AW, TAKE IT EASY, FELLA! NOBODY'S GOING TO BLAME YOU!

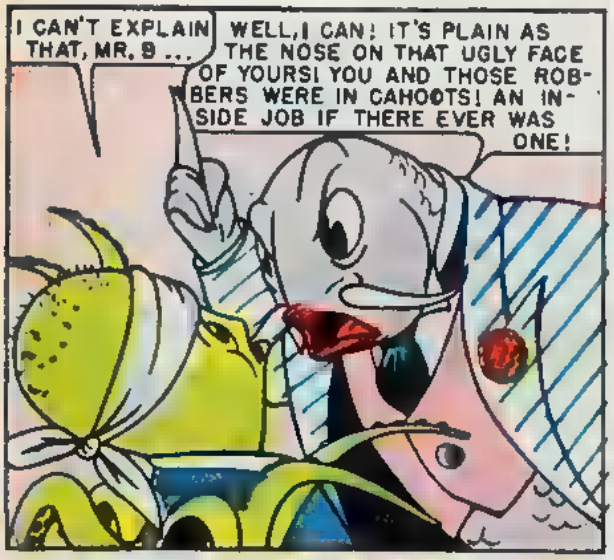
THEY WON'T PROMOTE ME FOR IT, NEITHER! THERE WUZ A COOL $10,000 CASH IN THEM SACKS — AND I LET THAT PAIR GET AWAY WITH IT! WHAT'LL JENNY JELLYFISH SAY— AND ME POOR OLD MUDDER?

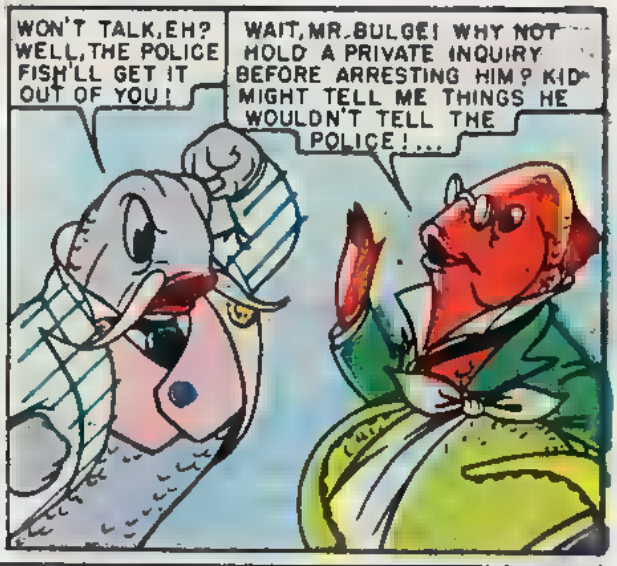

NOW, DON'T WORRY! HERE COMES RED LANTERN...
WELL, THEY'RE SENDING OUT SIX POLICE CARS TO LOOK FOR THE ROBBERS!

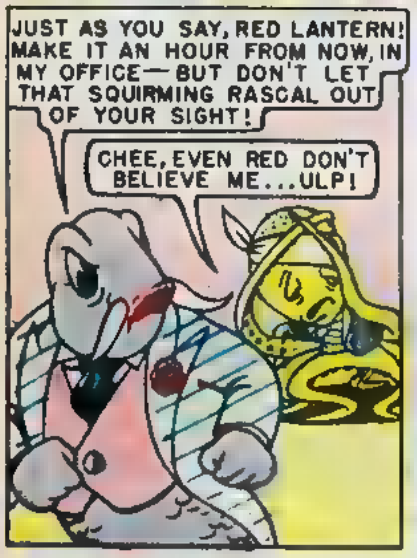

WHAT'S THAT? THE POLICE! ROBBERS?
OH, MOIDER! SINK ME QUICK! IT'S MR. BULGE, DE PRESIDENT!

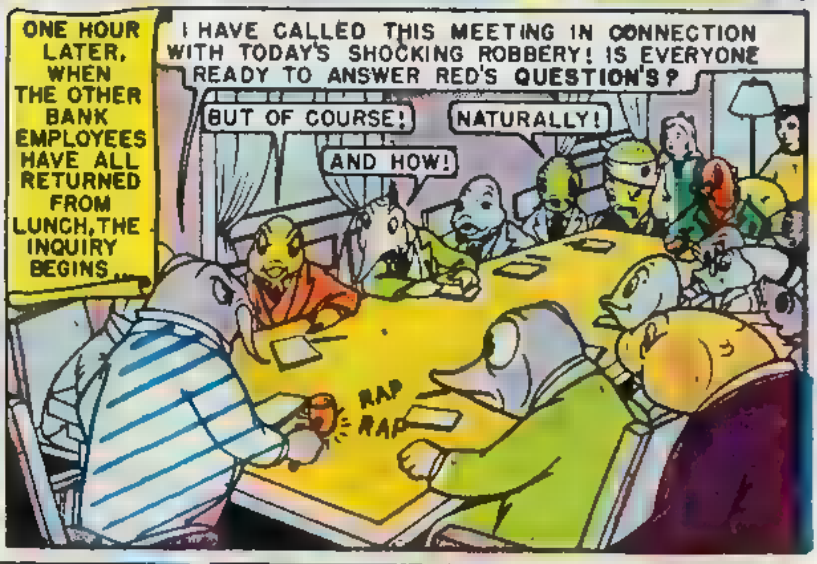

THERE'S BEEN A HOLD-UP MR. BULGE! ARMED THUGS— GOT AWAY WITH TODAY'S GREEN MONEY!
WHAT?! AND THIS FOOL OCTOPUS COULDN'T STOP IT?

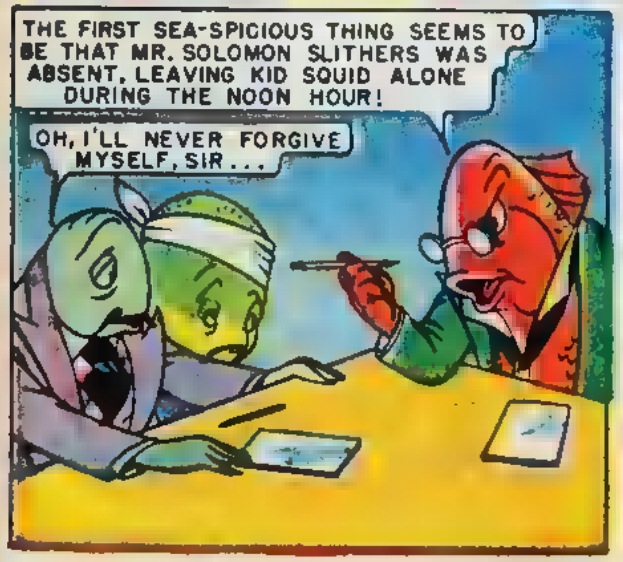

HE WAS ALL ALONE EXCEPT FOR THESE EARTH CHILDREN!
BUT THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES! WHY DIDN'T HE PRESS THE ALARM BELL AND...HA! THE ALARM UNDER SQUID'S DESK HAS BEEN CUT OFF!

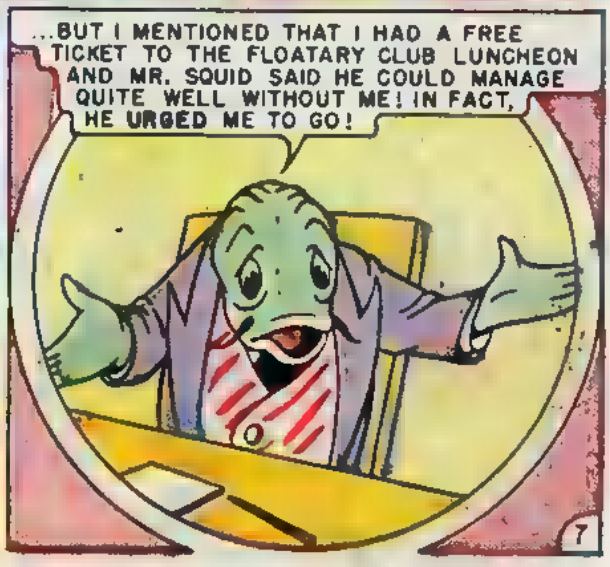

I CAN'T EXPLAIN THAT, MR. B ...
WELL, I CAN! IT'S PLAIN AS THE NOSE ON THAT UGLY FACE OF YOURS! YOU AND THOSE ROBBERS WERE IN CAHOOTS! AN INSIDE JOB IF THERE EVER WAS ONE!

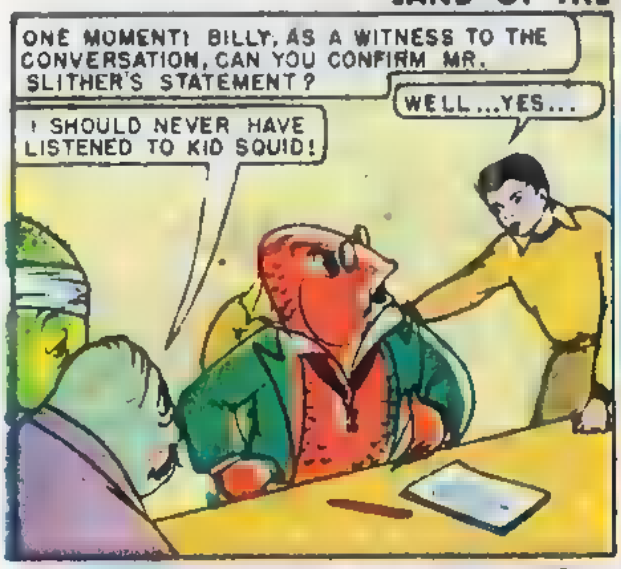

WON'T TALK, EH? WELL, THE POLICE FISH'LL GET IT OUT OF YOU!
WAIT, MR. BULGE! WHY NOT HOLD A PRIVATE INQUIRY BEFORE ARRESTING HIM? KID MIGHT TELL ME THINGS HE WOULDN'T TELL THE POLICE!...

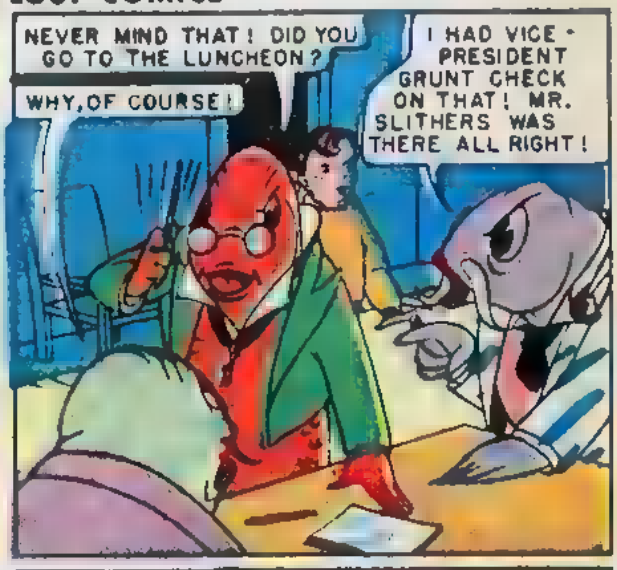

JUST AS YOU SAY, RED LANTERN! MAKE IT AN HOUR FROM NOW, IN MY OFFICE—BUT DON'T LET THAT SQUIRMING RASCAL OUT OF YOUR SIGHT!
CHEE, EVEN RED DON'T BELIEVE ME...ULP!

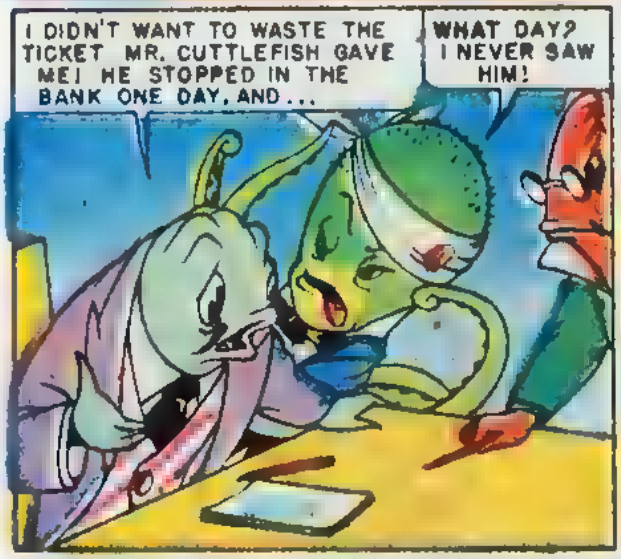

ONE HOUR LATER, WHEN THE OTHER BANK EMPLOYEES HAVE ALL RETURNED FROM LUNCH, THE INQUIRY BEGINS...
I HAVE CALLED THIS MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH TODAY'S SHOCKING ROBBERY! IS EVERYONE READY TO ANSWER RED'S QUESTION'S?
BUT OF COURSE!
NATURALLY!
AND HOW!
RAP RAP

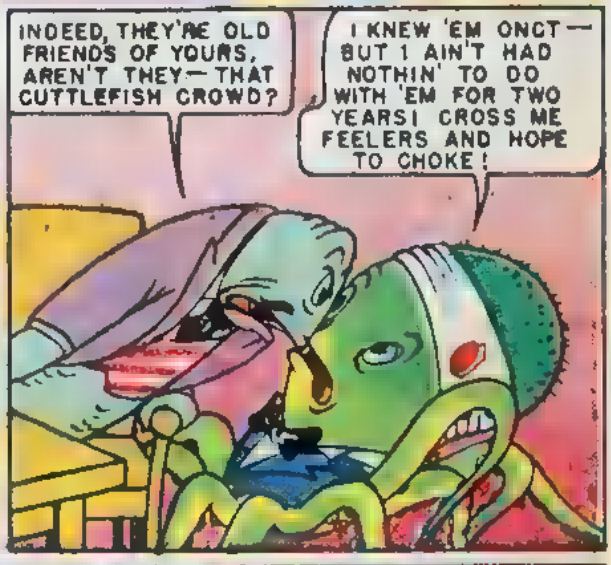

THE FIRST SEA-SPICIOUS THING SEEMS TO BE THAT MR. SOLOMON SLITHERS WAS ABSENT, LEAVING KID SQUID ALONE DURING THE NOON HOUR!
OH, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF, SIR...

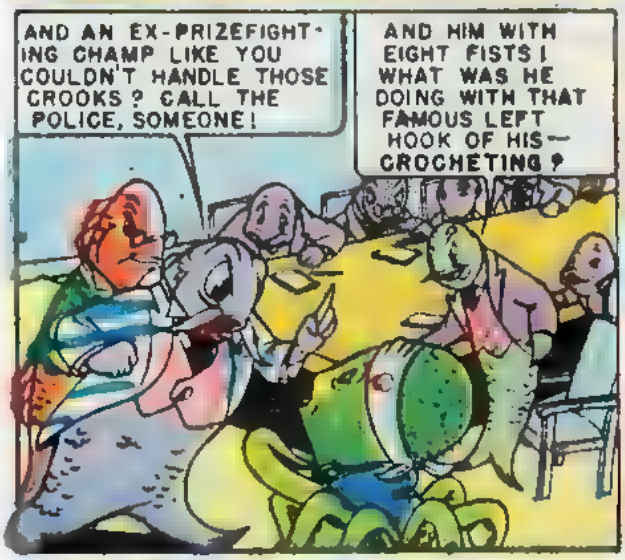

...BUT I MENTIONED THAT I HAD A FREE TICKET TO THE FLOATARY CLUB LUNCHEON AND MR. SQUID SAID HE COULD MANAGE QUITE WELL WITHOUT ME! IN FACT, HE URGED ME TO GO!

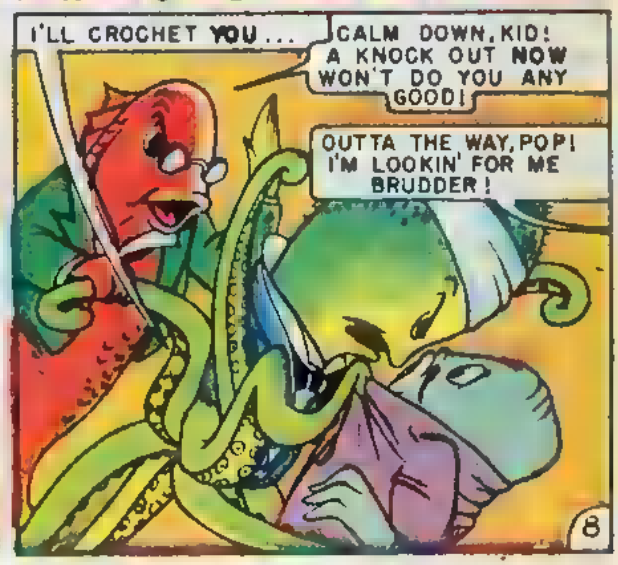

ONE MOMENT! BILLY, AS A WITNESS TO THE CONVERSATION, CAN YOU CONFIRM MR. SLITHER'S STATEMENT?
WELL...YES...
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LISTENED TO KID SQUID!

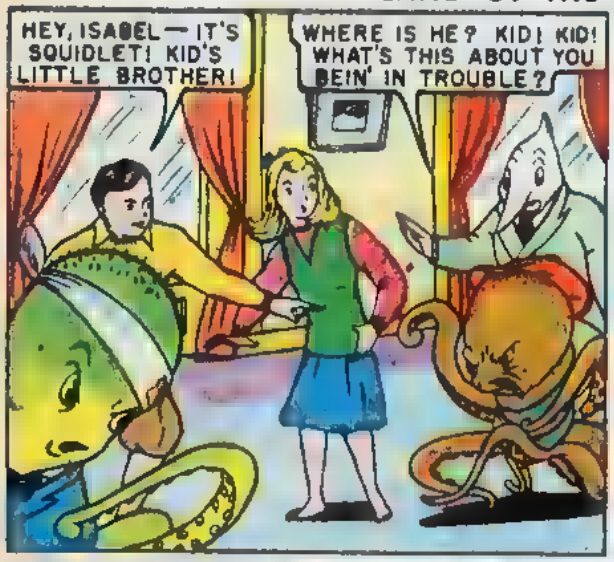

NEVER MIND THAT! DID YOU GO TO THE LUNCHEON?
WHY, OF COURSE!
I HAD VICE-PRESIDENT GRUNT CHECK ON THAT! MR. SLITHERS WAS THERE ALL RIGHT!

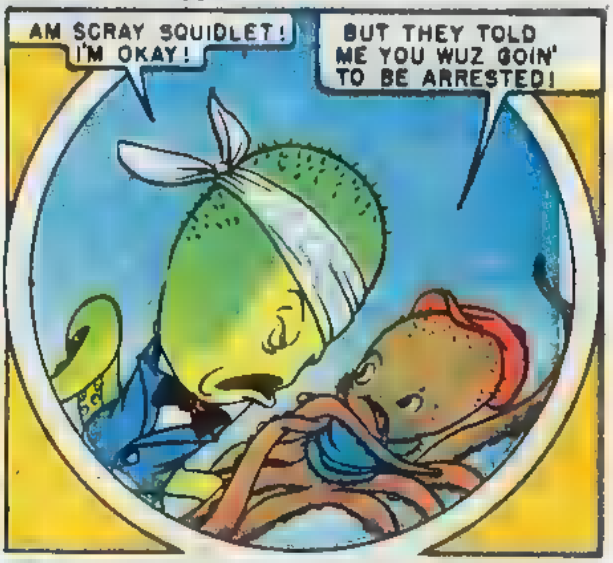

I DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE THE TICKET MR. CUTTLEFISH GAVE ME! HE STOPPED IN THE BANK ONE DAY, AND...
WHAT DAY? I NEVER SAW HIM!

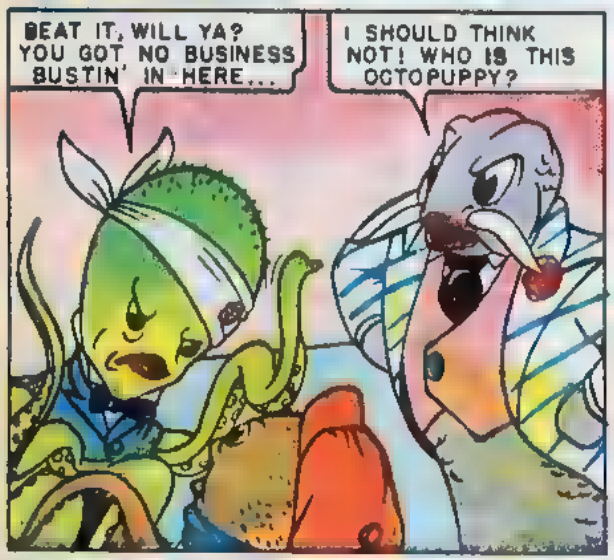

INDEED, THEY'RE OLD FRIENDS OF YOURS, AREN'T THEY—THAT CUTTLEFISH CROWD?
I KNEW 'EM ONCE—BUT I AIN'T HAD NOTHIN' TO DO WITH 'EM FOR TWO YEARS! CROSS ME FEELERS AND HOPE TO CHOKE!

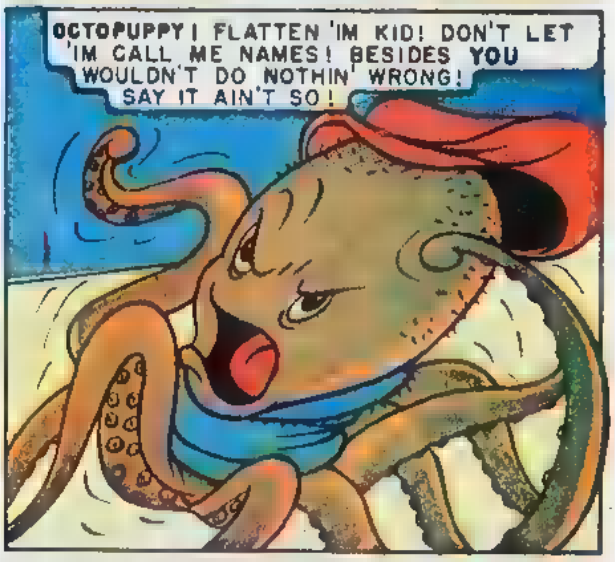

AND AN EX-PRIZEFIGHTING CHAMP LIKE YOU COULDN'T HANDLE THOSE CROOKS? CALL THE POLICE, SOMEONE!
AND HIM WITH EIGHT FISTS! WHAT WAS HE DOING WITH THAT FAMOUS LEFT HOOK OF HIS—CROCHETING?

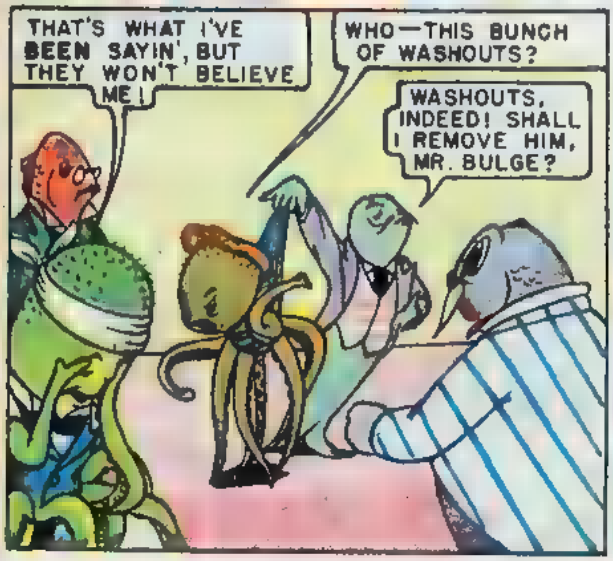

I'LL CROCHET YOU...
CALM DOWN, KID! A KNOCK OUT NOW WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD!
OUTTA THE WAY, POP! I'M LOOKIN' FOR ME BRUDDER!

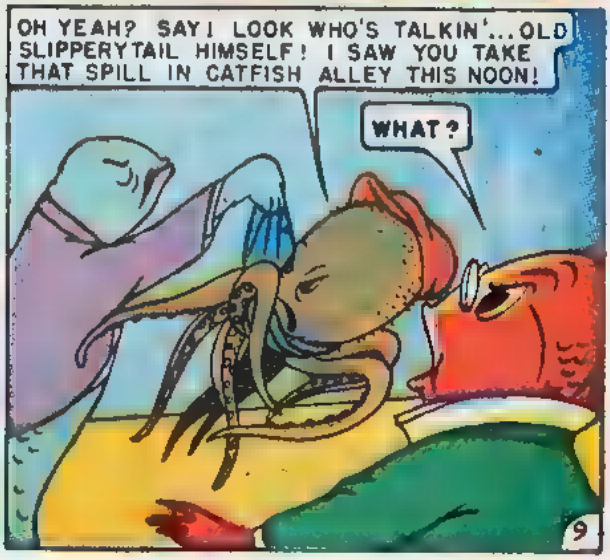

HEY, ISABEL — IT'S SQUIDLET! KID'S LITTLE BROTHER!
WHERE IS HE? KID! KID! WHAT'S THIS ABOUT YOU BEIN' IN TROUBLE?

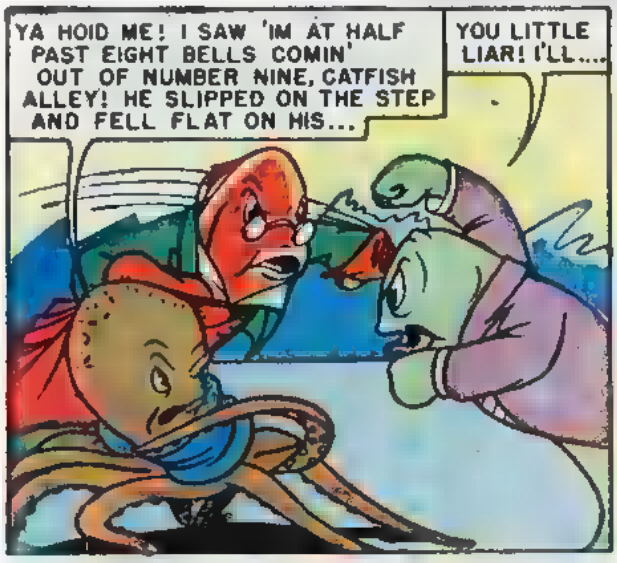

AM SCRAY SQUIDLET! I'M OKAY!
BUT THEY TOLD ME YOU WUZ GOIN' TO BE ARRESTED!


BEAT IT, WILL YA? YOU GOT NO BUSINESS BUSTIN' IN HERE...
I SHOULD THINK NOT! WHO IS THIS OCTOPUPPY?

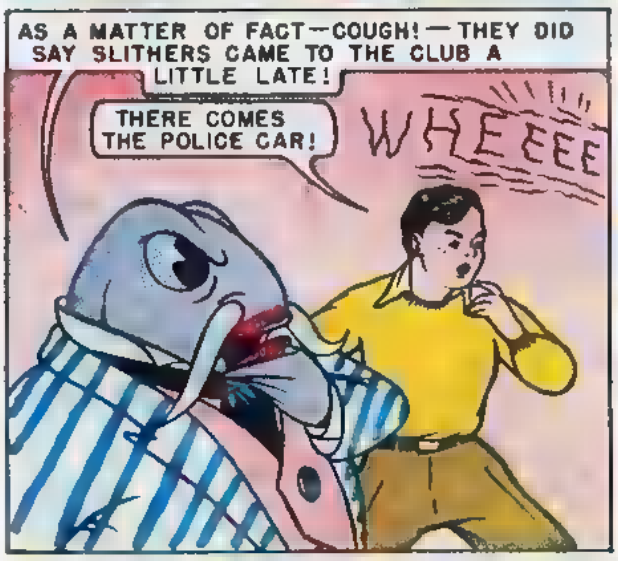

OCTOPUPPY! FLATTEN 'IM KID! DON'T LET 'IM CALL ME NAMES! BESIDES YOU WOULDN'T DO NOTHIN' WRONG! SAY IT AIN'T SO!


THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYIN', BUT THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME!
WHO — THIS BUNCH OF WASHOUTS?
WASHOUTS, INDEED! SHALL I REMOVE HIM, MR. BULGE?

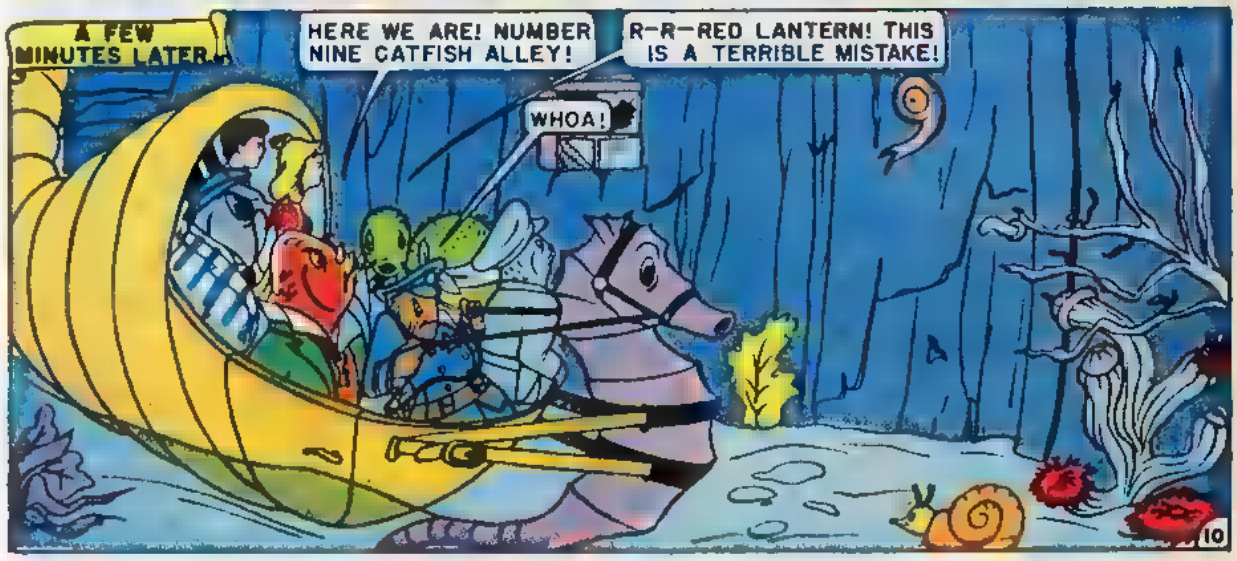

OH YEAH? SAY! LOOK WHO'S TALKIN'... OLD SLIPPERYTAIL HIMSELF! I SAW YOU TAKE THAT SPILL IN CATFISH ALLEY THIS NOON!
WHAT?

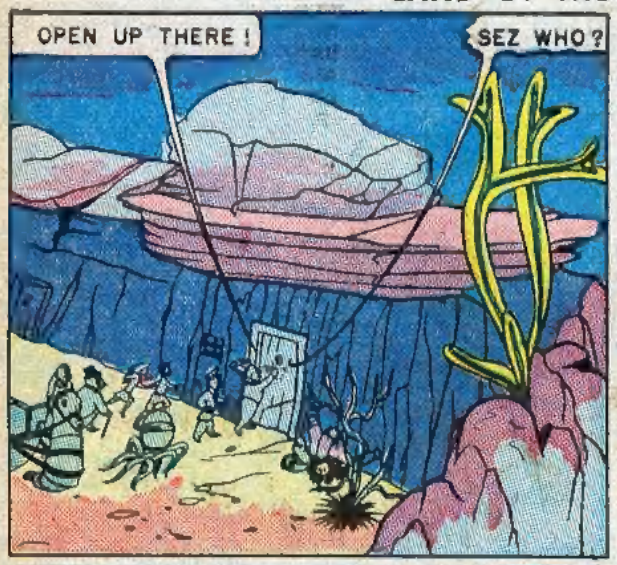

YA HOID ME! I SAW 'IM AT HALF PAST EIGHT BELLS COMIN' OUT OF NUMBER NINE, CATFISH ALLEY! HE SLIPPED ON THE STEP AND FELL FLAT ON HIS...
YOU LITTLE LIAR! I'LL....

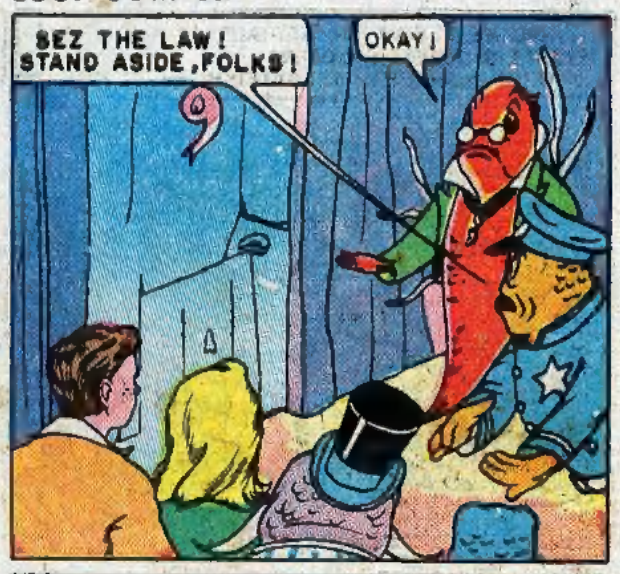
SO, SLITHER! THIRTY MINUTES AFTER YOU LEFT THE BANK YOU WERE ■ CATFISH ALLEY! AND IT'S NOT ON THE WAY TO THE FLOATARY CLUB!
BUT, BUT ASK MR. BULGE...

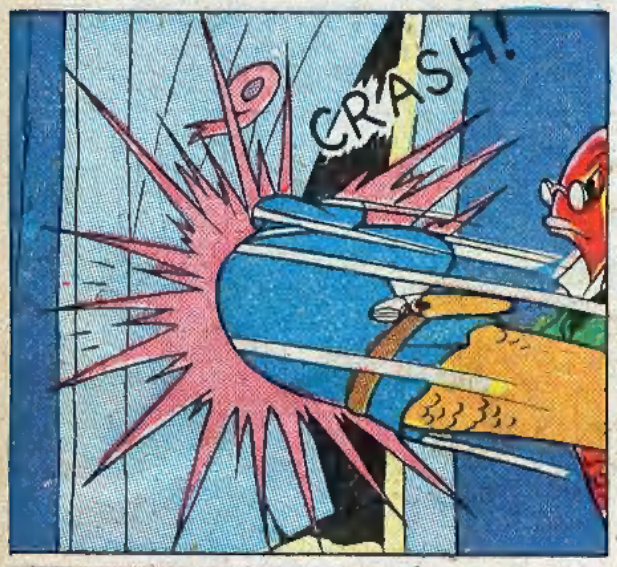

AS A MATTER OF FACT—COUGH!—THEY DID SAY SLITHERS CAME TO THE CLUB A LITTLE LATE!
THERE COMES THE POLICE CAR!
WHEEEE

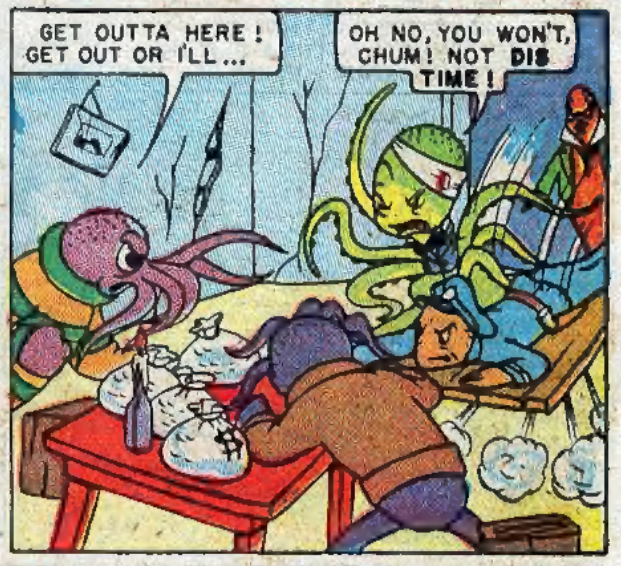
AND WE CAN USE IT! COME ON, EVERYONE! WE'RE GOING TO VISIT NINE CATFISH ALLEY! AND WE'LL TAKE SLITHERS ALONG JUST FOR THE RIDE!

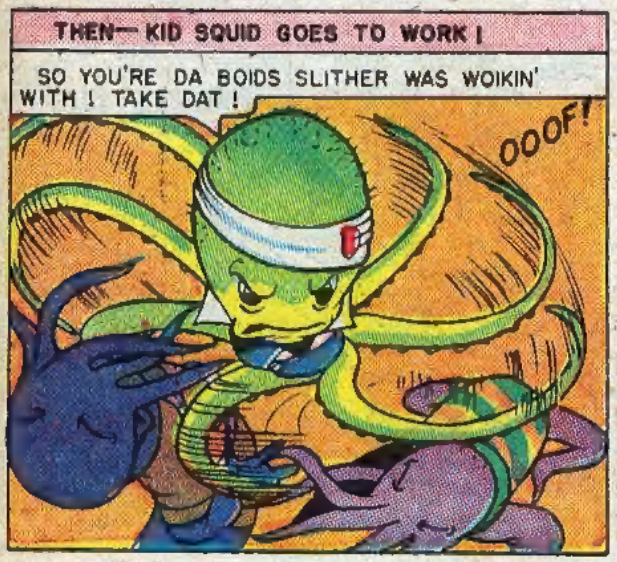

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
HERE WE ARE! NUMBER NINE CATFISH ALLEY!
R-R-RED LANTERN! THIS IS A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!
WHOA!


OPEN UP THERE!
SEZ WHO?


SEZ THE LAW! STAND ASIDE, FOLKS!
OKAY!

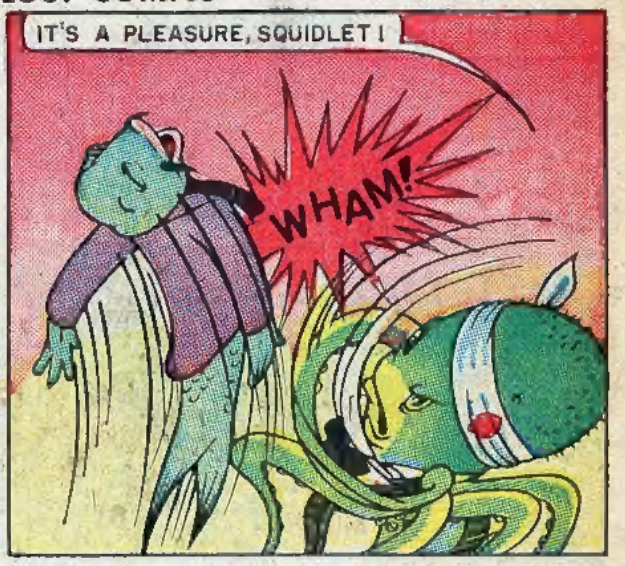

CRASH!

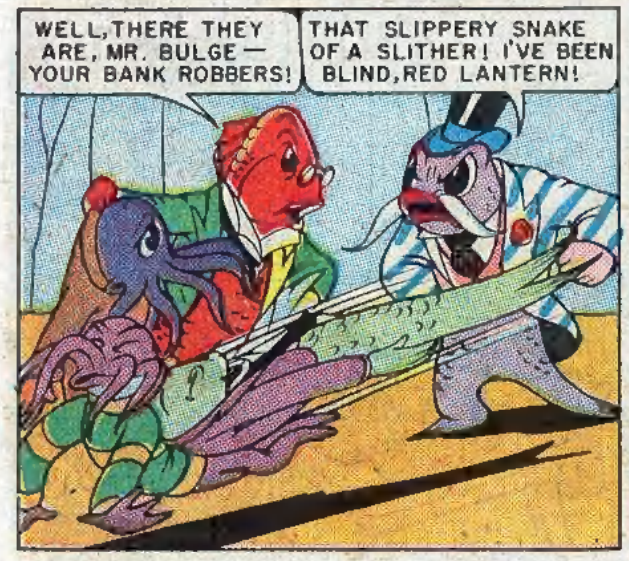

GET OUTTA HERE! GET OUT OR I'LL...
OH NO, YOU WON'T, CHUM! NOT DIS TIME!

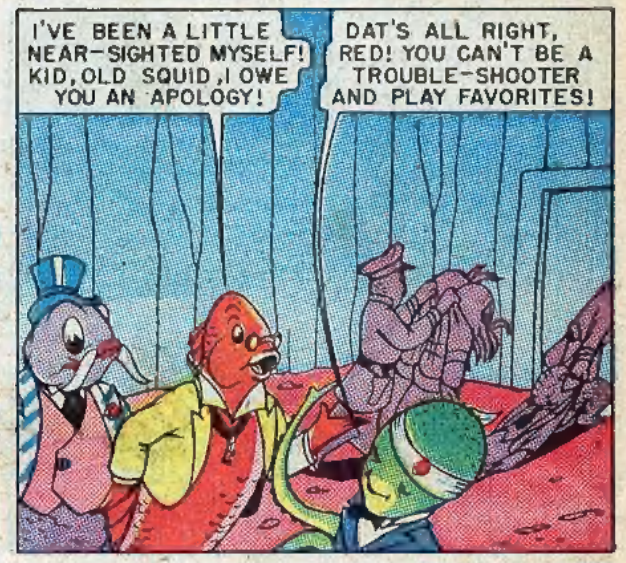

THEN— KID SQUID GOES TO WORK!
SO YOU'RE DA BOIDS SLITHER WAS WOIKIN' WITH! TAKE DAT!
OOOF!

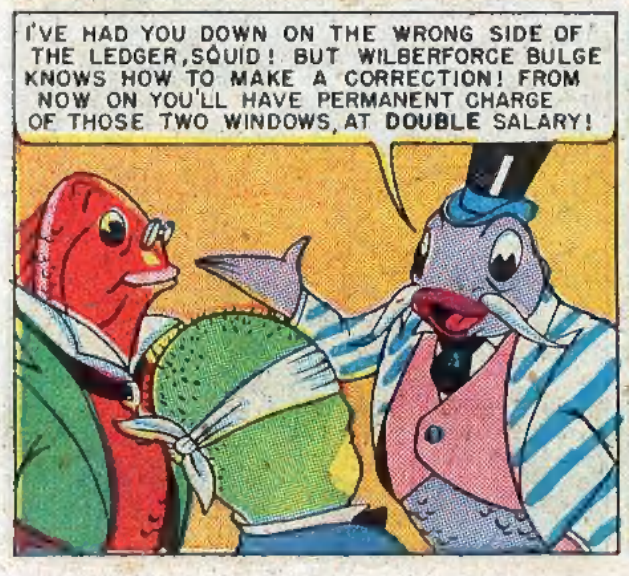
SO, MR. SLITHER! THIS IS THE LITTLE HIDEOUT YOU BROUGHT THE MONEY TO AFTER YOU AND YOUR ACCOMPLICE HELD UP THE BANK!
AND YOU'D NEVER HAVE CAUGHT ME IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR—

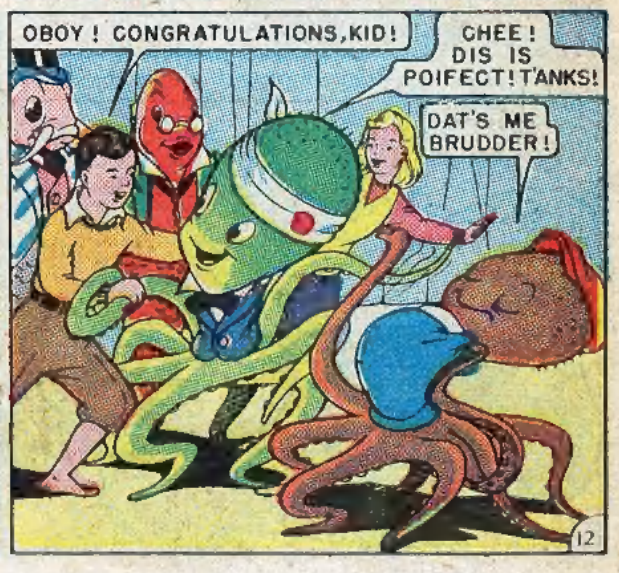
....THAT LITTLE MEDDLING SPRAT OF A...
WHAT'S DAT? CALLING ME NAMES? BOP HIM KID! BOP HIM FER ME!


IT'S A PLEASURE, SQUIDLET!
WHAM!

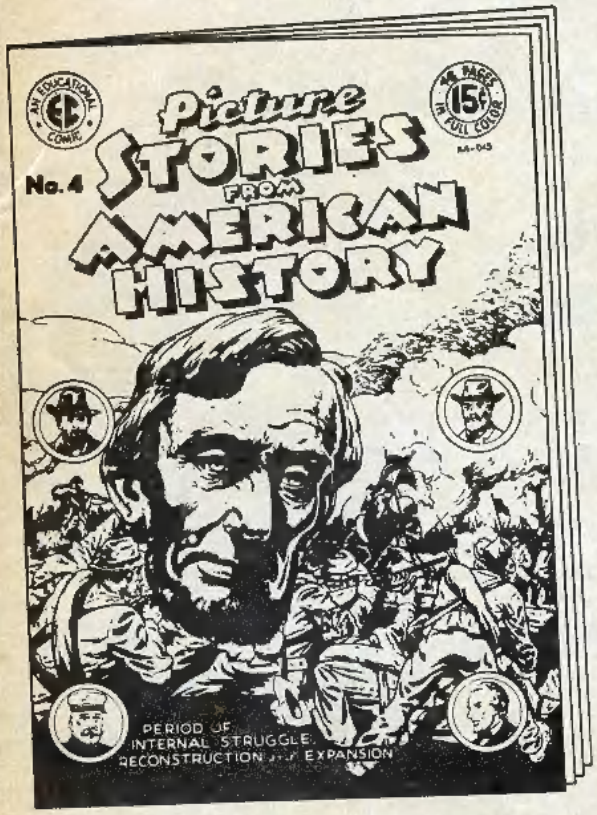

WELL, THERE THEY ARE, MR. BULGE — YOUR BANK ROBBERS!
THAT SLIPPERY SNAKE OF A SLITHER! I'VE BEEN BLIND, RED LANTERN!


I'VE BEEN A LITTLE NEAR-SIGHTED MYSELF! KID, OLD SQUID, I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY!
DAT'S ALL RIGHT, RED! YOU CAN'T BE A TROUBLE-SHOOTER AND PLAY FAVORITES!


I'VE HAD YOU DOWN ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE LEDGER, SQUID! BUT WILBERFORCE BULGE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE A CORRECTION! FROM NOW ON YOU'LL HAVE PERMANENT CHARGE OF THOSE TWO WINDOWS, AT DOUBLE SALARY!


OBOY! CONGRATULATIONS, KID!
GEE! DIS IS POIFECT! T'ANKS!
DAT'S ME BRUDDER!

NOW ON SALE EVERYWHERE!



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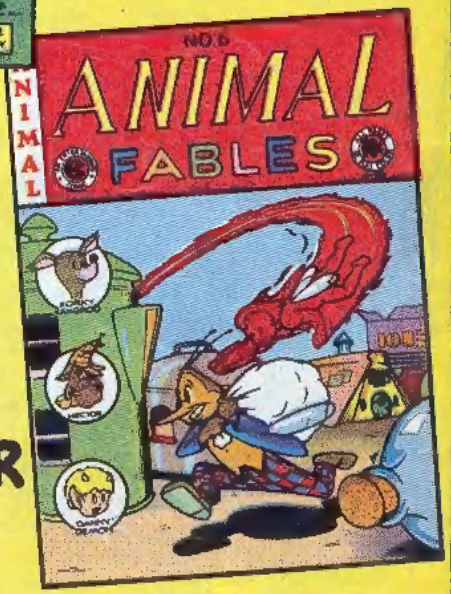
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